

**FRIDAY
AUGUST 4 2006**

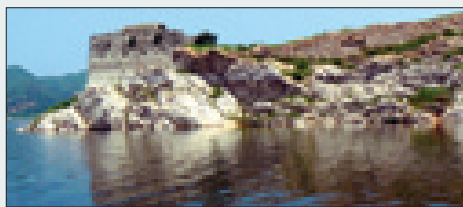
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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
HOU MINGXIN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN

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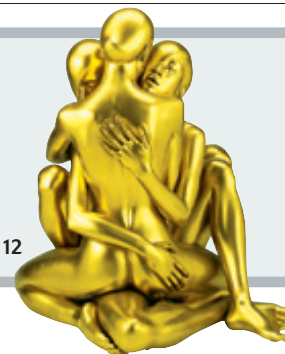


Make a splash
in the best
swim gear.
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Hebei hideaway
where Wall meets
water.
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Unmask: art and
design face off.
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Tourists die in Shunyi horror smash

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Xinhua Photo

Coach explosion kills eleven

By Gan Tian

A bus exploded in Tianzhu County, Guizhou Province 7am yesterday morning, killing eleven.

Six died immediately, with 20 injured. Survivors were taken to hospital, where by 11am, five had died of injuries sustained, with others reported to be 'in danger'.

Local authorities are investigating the cause of the explosion.

Nazi net auction is legal gray area

By Han Mamman

Nazi memorabilia has been found for sale on China's top two online auction sites, Taobao.com and eBay.com.cn. China currently has no law specifically aimed at stopping the sale of such items, and the trade appears to be growing.

Both Taobao and eBay are listing Nazi-related items, including necklaces, knives, cigarette lighters, and stamps. Hitler's book *Mein Kampf*, the sale of which is banned in many countries, is listed for sale on Taobao.

The book once got US net portal Yahoo into trouble, when two French groups sued the company for breaking French laws which forbid the display or sale of racist materials.

Lu Feng, a lawyer with Beijing Changjiu Law Firm, said the sale of Nazi items online seems to be an obvious case of promoting militarism dangerous to social morality, and even harmful to the image of the country. However, since China has not yet framed a specific law, authorities have no basis for stop-

ping the sales.

"The sale of Nazi items is definitely not allowed in China," said one official from the Beijing Administration for Industry and Commerce (BAIC). He added that both the BAIC and Beijing police would be happy to deal with any cases where Nazi memorabilia was offered for sale, "If we receive the report that it's going on we will come and stop it immediately."

Lu, however, believes that it will be difficult to crack down on online sales, which are outside the BAIC's

remit. The BAIC agrees, "The most direct and effective way to stop auctions of illegal or bad-taste items online is for Internet companies not to allow such items on their sites."

Staff at Taobao said they do monitor what is sold on their site, and will stop the sale of anything illegal immediately. "A large number of online products are still waiting to be checked, maybe our staff have not yet spotted the Nazi items," she said, "If a customer finds Nazi related items, he or she can send us a complaint."

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beijing@bioscor.com.cn
www.bioscor.com.cn

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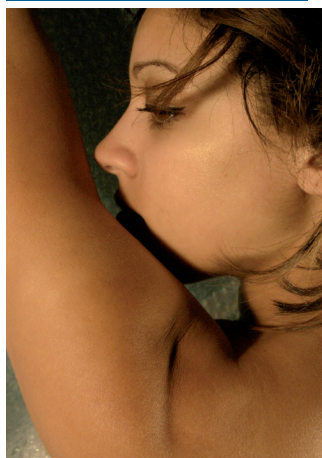
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Bribery campaign made public

By Huang Daohen

Some 6,972 commercial bribery cases led to the punishment of 416 civil servants between August 2005 and June 2006. The total sums of illicit money involved were some 1.963 billion yuan (US\$ 245 million).

Li Yufu, deputy director of the leading office on fighting commercial bribery under the Central Committee of the Communist Party

of China (CPC), revealed August 1 that, "China has launched a nationwide move against commercial bribery, which began in the middle of last year." This was the first public announcement concerning the campaign.

Li said that 1,603 of the cases involved state workers, 23 percent of the total. Some 508 million yuan (US\$63.5 million) was illegally obtained by 49 city-level

and 367 county-level officials.

Commercial bribery cases are most frequently seen in the 'easy areas' of construction, land deals, the sell-off of state-owned enterprises, government procurement, medicine purchases and sales. Other problem areas include bank loans, commercial insurance, the publishing industry, telecoms, electricity generation, professional sports and

environmental protection.

Figures from the office of the leading group show that 5,480 cases, 79 percent of the total, occurred in the six 'easy areas' listed above. Fifteen major cases saw sums of illicit money ranging from 560,000 to 10.73 million yuan (US\$70,000 to 1.34 million) taken. These led to 15 officials involved receiving prison sentences of more than 10 years.

New policy impacts secondhand house sales

By Chen Shasha

Li Yun, an Indonesian Chinese, arrived at Beijing on July 27 to sell her house in Chaoyang District. Five days later, China will levy 20% income tax on private house sales, or secondhand houses.

"I had planned to sell my house in August but on hearing the new policy, I felt worried and hurried up my plans immediately," Li said. Li is not the only one—many people had the same worries and rushed to sell their houses during July 27 and July 28.

A survey by Xinyitian house transaction agency found the house dealing was three times normal during the two days.

According to the new rule, those who want to sell houses to make profits will suffer heavy losses, since they will have to pay various kinds of taxes including land tax, stamp tax, sales tax, income tax, as well as some other expenses. But if the seller is selling his only house, which he has lived in for more than five years, he may enjoy a full rebate of the tax.

The regulation also exempts those who sold their previous house and then bought a new one within one year. The new policy will be applied to foreigners who have bought apartments in China without any preference.

It may block the transaction of those newly bought apartments and cause a surge in secondhand house transaction prices this year, said Zhao Xiju, researcher from the Finance and Security Research Center of Remin University.

Yu Yin, officer of the Department of Marketing at Jingguiji housing agency said the price of Siheyuan courtyards will also be affected and rise in the near future.



The body of Du Zhaoyu, a Chinese UN military observer who was killed last week in an Israeli air raid on Lebanon, was brought home on Wednesday morning
Xinhua Photo

Chinese peacekeeper hero back home

By Jiang Xubo

The body of Du Zhaoyu, a Chinese UN military observer who was killed last week in an Israeli air raid on Lebanon, was brought home on Wednesday morning and a memorial service will be held today.

His widow Li Lingling, who had flown to Israel, escorted her husband's body on their way home.

His parents and son, along with officials from the Chinese People's Liberation Army and the Foreign Minister, waited at

the airport to receive him.

"We are deeply sorry about the mistake but this is a state of war and sometimes there is disorder," said Nadav Eshcar, spokesman for the Israeli Embassy in China. "The Israeli government will be 100 percent co-operative in the handling of Du's return and show our good will in a hard time. We also wish to attend his memorial service."

The Chinese military plane carrying Du's body left Israel late Tuesday and arrived at the Beijing Nanyuan Airport on Wednesday.

Du, a 34-year-old lieutenant colonel, was sent to Lebanon last December as a UN observer and was killed in the bomb blast with his three colleagues from Finland, Austria and Canada at the end of last month.

Du is the eighth Chinese military staff member to die in UN peacekeeping missions since 1988, when China joined the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations and started to participate in missions, according to the Ministry of National Defense.

Global hunt for Forbidden City pictures

By Jiang Xubo

The Palace Museum is collecting pictures of the Forbidden City from around the world until August 20, for a photographic exhibition to be held this October marking its 80th anniversary.

Any pictures, both color and black-and-white, showing the palace scenery, architecture and people are welcome. This worldwide collection campaign is open

to both professional and amateur photographers, as well as people who own photos that display the museum's history and culture.

"We want to get as many photographs of the Forbidden City as possible and ordinary people may offer us a surprise with pictures that show the palace from different points of view," said Xie Xiaofeng, the exhibition organizer.

A panel of 10 judges, including

experts from the Palace Museum and professional photographers, will select some 500 photos and put them on display at the exhibition. The pictures displayed will also find their way into the exhibition's brochure, Impressions of the Palace Museum.

Both digital pictures and print photographs are welcome. For further information, please call 8404 9496 or 8400 1782.

Folk culture in Dashilan

By Jackie Zhang

A Beijing local folk culture center was opened on Monday in Dashilan, the hutong running west from Qianmen which is a long-standing commercial street in Beijing famous for its laozihao—time-honored stores.

The Dashilan Folk Culture Development Center is located at Dongliulichang Street, managed by the Dashilan Street Office. "It will be

a special location for Beijing folk culture exhibitions, sales, and production demonstrations," said Jing Quanxin, director of the Dashilan Community Service Center.

In the exhibition room, traditional Beijing handicrafts are on show. There are palace lamps, paper cuts, kites, dough figurines, and copper carvings. "The handicrafts that need special skills, such as the

copper carvings and dough figurines, are made by local craftsmen living here. Some others like paper cuts, necklaces and decorations are made by gathering unemployed residents," Jing Quanxin said. "We will organize live demonstrations in the center to show people the process of making different handicrafts."

Another service the center provides is hutong tours.

Low-priced tickets to World Junior Championships

By Gan Tian

Ticket prices for the 11th International Association of Athletics Federation (IAFF) World Junior Championships were set on Tuesday. For the opening ceremony there are 300 and 180 yuan tickets, the closing ceremony is 30 yuan, competitions in the morning are only 10 yuan, and 20 yuan for afternoon and evening tickets

Li Jinkang, from the championship committee, said the tickets are "very cheap" as it aims at providing more chances for people to watch the games. People also can buy tickets from the official website: <http://sports.qianlong.com>

Zhang Heping, a committee secretary, said the committee would provide maps of the World Junior Championships venues to taxis in Beijing.

The 11th IAAF World Junior Championships will be held at the Beijing Chaoyang Sports Fitness & Leisure Park from August 15-20. It is the biggest international field sports event in China, and also a rehearsal for the Olympic Games in 2008. More than 1,600 athletes in 184 countries will take part in the game.

No nighttime tolls on airport expressway

By Huang Daohen

The airport expressway will levy no tolls on vehicles that enter Beijing during the night, between 11pm to 6am, starting July 31. The exit direction remains normal.

The temporary 'no tolls' regulation is mainly due to the inconvenience caused by roadworks on the airport expressway. According to the city traffic committee, the airport expressway is closed from 11pm every day during the overhaul. Taking into account the impact on traffic, the entry direction route has switched to Jingshun Road after entering the toll station near the airport. The whole journey that vehicles take on the expressway is thus reduced to about seven kilometers, compared to the 20 kilometers previously.

Many drivers have complained that it's unfair that the entry fee is still ten yuan while the distance traveled is shorter! Many drivers complained. Following the drivers' comments, the city traffic committee launched the new 'no tolls' regulation on July 31, which will last until September 28 when the overhauling should be completed. The exit direction will be kept open as usual and maintain the current charges.

The Department of Transport would like to remind drivers that vehicles passing through the airport expressway should pay attention to the traffic signs on the way, and submit to the on-site traffic staff's directions.

Mass dog slaughter to prevent rabies

By Chen Shasha

Over 50,000 dogs were killed in Mouding Town in Yunnan Province last week, in a bid to prevent the spread of rabies.

Yang Jing, deputy secretary of the Mouding CPC Committee confirmed the figure and said the killings were ordered after 360 people

had been bitten by dogs since June, leading to three deaths.

All the dogs, including family pets and strays, were killed by beating, hanging or electric shock, in a five day campaign run jointly by local government agencies.

Some 4,292 of the dogs killed had been inoculated against

rabies. A Mr Liang, manager of Mouding Veterinary Office, said that only 85 percent of inoculated dogs would produce rabies antibodies. This, coupled with the long dormancy period of the disease, made it hard to determine which dogs were healthy.

Li Huiping, of the Beijing Pets

Protection Association, said she was shocked by the killings. "There must be something wrong with animal control procedures in Mouding. It is the government's fault, not the dogs," said Li, but she did concede that the large number of stray animals could present a problem, even in Beijing.

Shanghai residents to hunker in bunker

By Chen Shasha

A vast underground bunker that can accommodate up to 200,000 people has been built in Shanghai, to shelter residents in case of a terrorist incident or natural disaster.

Zhang Zhongde, of Shanghai's civil air defense office said that the bunker, which covers 90,000 square meters under the city's Xinzhuang and Baoshan districts, was built in case of explosions, emissions of poisonous gas or radiation. However, he refused to reveal exactly when and where the bunker was built.

Zhang says that the bunker has 15 passages nearly four kilometers in length that connect to office towers and residential apartments. It is also linked to the subway system, enabling people to flee from one district to another.

If a disaster occurs, water, power and ventilation systems are sufficient for people to remain in the bunker for seven to fifteen days. In times of peace, some parts can be used as garages, warehouses and commercial facilities.

Although most citizens don't know where the entrances to the bunker are located, air defense officials of each district will lead people to it should a disaster occur, claimed Zhang.

Beijing does not have any bunker of this size, but has several underground shelters from an earlier era which have now been converted into a tourist complex.

Super English contest paves way to Australia

By He Jianwei

'I Say, I Can - I want to go to Australia!' Beijing Super English contest will kick-off at 5pm this Saturday at Soshow entertainment shopping mall.

"The top five contestants will win a free five-week trip to Australia to study in AMES (Adult Multicultural Education Services) and visit scenic spots," said Chen Xuejin, vice president of Radio 774 at Beijing Radio Corporation.



Classic cars friendship rally ends

Over 40 classic cars took part in the Hamburg-Shanghai rally, marking the 20th anniversary of the twinning of two cities becoming friendship cities. The cars arrived in Shanghai on August 2.

CFP Photo

Yao Ming dreams of carrying flag for China Olympic team

By Chu Meng

Chinese NBA star Yao Ming said he is on track to play in this month's world championships, as the national team returned home Tuesday from its disappointing European warm-up tour.

"Now I am 80 percent OK. I am getting closer to my best shape," Yao said. "The recovery of my left foot has been quite good and better than expected."

The 7ft 5in NBA Star broke his left foot playing for the Houston Rockets on April 11, casting doubt on his participation in basketball's international showcase that starts in

Japan on August 19.

Yao said his priority was to train with the national squad, which on Monday completed its European tour with a 66-74 loss to Angola. It was their sixth defeat in seven games in a four-team tournament that also included Spain and France. "[Our team] plays in different leagues and have different styles in the games, but we have to get used to each other in a very short time. It won't be easy," he said.

Despite China's poor show in Europe, Yao expressed confidence that the team could be ready for the worlds. "We need to

play with more confidence when competing against strong opponents," he said. "As long as we can be mentally tough at the worlds, I believe we will be able to make the quarter-finals."

Yao talked about his dream for the 2008 Olympics. "As well as leading the Chinese Men's Basketball Team at the Games, I would love to carry the flag for the China team in the opening ceremony. Since China first took part in the Olympics in 1984, the honor of carrying the flag has always gone to our men's basketball team. I want to keep it."

Sacred lake to host tourist love-in

By Huang Daohen

Some 50 couples will be invited to take part in a group wedding at Namtso, on the shores of one of Tibet's most sacred lakes, which Lhasa Tourism Bureau has dubbed 'Love at the Sacred Lake'. The trip is currently being promoted both in Beijing and Lhasa, and the deadline for application will last till September 5.

The wedding ceremony is to be held beside Namtso Lake, 4,720 meters above sea-level, between September 22 and September 27. The ceremony will combine Han and Tibetan traditions. Couples will be welcomed by a herd of horses, toast each other with Tibetan wine,

and sing traditional Tibetan songs before a ceremony performed by a *trulku*, or reborn Buddhist teacher, from nearby Tashi Monastery.

The Han tradition will be represented in a grand wedding ceremony to be held the night before the newly-weds leave Tibet.

The wedding ceremonies are just art of the experience on offer. The organizing committee has also arranged a variety of activities, including touring famous sites, tasting Tibetan cuisine and experiencing aspects of the everyday way of life of ordinary Tibetan people, giving participants an insight into a Tibetan culture long surrounded by a mystique in the world outside.

The activity is also aimed at promoting environmental awareness. Couples and their relatives and friends will sign a 'declaration for the protection of Tibet's environment'. They will take part in litter collection on their way to Namtso.

"The event will show the new image of Tibet. We plan for it to be a regular annual event in future," Jhampung from the Lhasa Tourism Bureau said. The event has attracted national interest. It is open to anyone who is in good health and who does not expect to suffer from altitude sickness. For more information call the organizers at 6711 8264.

Commercial use of corpses banned

By Gan Tian

The commercial use of human corpses is to be banned in China. The move is aimed at controlling the illegal trade in organs for transplant.

The regulations came into effect on August 1, barring all uses of donated bodies other than medical research. No organization or individual is allowed to accept donations of human bodies except medical institutes, medical schools, medical research institutes and forensic research institutes. Transport of bodies into and out of China for medical use will require approval from civil affairs departments, customs and inspection and quarantine authorities.

The regulations were drafted by nine organizations including the ministries of health and science, and customs.

Drunk non-swimmer alive on the ocean waves after 18 hours adrift

By Han Manman

A drunken non-swimmer survived for 18 hours after falling overboard and floating in the sea in what many are calling a 'miracle'.

"Even I cannot believe I am still alive," said Liu, currently in hospital recovering from his ordeal. Reports said that Liu got drunk and fell overboard July 29 whilst vomiting over a ship's rail on his way from Yantai to Dalian in Shandong Province.

Dalian Maritime Authority records say the bureau received a report on July 30 evening that a ship on its way to Tianjin had found a middle-aged man floating out at sea, without any survival equipment. The man was rescued at 7pm. At that point, Liu had been in the water for 18 hours. He was exhausted but fully conscious.

A physical examination found Liu was in good health though he was weak.

Brief News

Fewer criminal cases

Beijing police recorded some 52,000 criminal cases in the first half of this year, down more than 10 percent on the same period last year and hitting a three year record low, according to the Capital Committee for the Comprehensive Administration of Public Security.

New HIV cases

Beijing Health Bureau announced that 313 new cases of people testing positive for HIV have been confirmed in the first half of this year, with cases in all 18 counties of the capital.

Illegal security guards sacked

The capital dismissed over 30,000 security guards who did not meet legal requirements, at more than 200 security service companies, in the first six months of this year, according to the Beijing Municipal Public Security Bureau.

Higher house prices

New house prices in Beijing have risen 8.5 percent in the first half of this year, up 1.3 percent on the corresponding period last year, according to the Beijing Statistics Bureau. (By Jiang Xubo)

Water diversion project to supply Beijing in 2008

By Qiu Jiaoning

China's South-to-North Water Diversion Project will start supplying water to Beijing in 2008 when an estimated 2.5 million people visit the city, said Li Guoying, head of the Yellow River Conservancy Committee under the Ministry of Water Resources, at a press conference on Tuesday.

Li said that water from the Yangtze River will be diverted to Beijing through the middle route of the South-to-North Water Diversion Project in early 2008, helping to ease severe water shortages and avoid using water from the Yellow River.

Shortages

Currently, the 15 million people living in Beijing consume 3.5 billion tons of water per year. But the city can only supply itself with 2.6 billion tons of water, meaning almost one billion tons of water have to be supplied from nearby cities, according to Beijing Water Authority.

"More than 400 of China's 600 cities suffer water shortages. The problem is especially acute in 108 cities, many of them along the Yellow River," said Li. The river, a major water resources for north-west and northern China, supplies water to 140 million people, or 12 percent of China's population, and irrigates about 15 percent of the country's farmland. But the water volume in the river has been shrinking or even drying up because of rising demand for water after years of overuse, pollution, drought and farming.

Drought

Drought is affecting the lives of more than five million people across the country and



Overuse of underground water has contributed to an 8-kilometer-long crack that appeared this July in Xingtai County, Hebei Province.

CFP Photo

has caused temporary drinking water supply disruption for people in Guizhou, Shanxi and Gansu provinces. People have to travel 50km for drinking water in some counties of Gansu Province.

At the press conference, Gao Fengtao, the Legislative Office of the State Council announced new regulations setting procedures for water allocation, defining the responsibilities of local authorities along the river and its tributaries. According to Gao, efficient use of the Yellow River is an important solution to ease water shortages and falling water tables across northern China.

Regulations

This is China's first law on water volume control of the long rivers, said Li Guoying. The new regulation, effective on Tuesday, will give the Water Resources Ministry the power to set plans for water usage for 11 provinces or municipalities along the Yellow River, and it will impose sanctions or fines on officials who do not comply with regulations.

The South-to-North Water Diversion project will divert water from the Yangtze River to the north through eastern, middle and western routes. The eastern route will divert water from the lower reaches of the Yellow River to north China's Tianjin Municipality and the middle route will carry water from the Yangtze to Beijing. Li said that with investment of 300 billion yuan, the western route will use a 300 kilometer-long relay of tunnels and channels to divert water from the upper reaches of Yangtze River on the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau to the upper reaches of the Yellow River in the thirsty northwestern areas.

Completely quackers

China's 'rubber duck armada' heads for Britain as 22,000-mile journey comes to an end

By He Jianwei

An 'armada' of 10,000 yellow bath duck toys from China will arrive on Britain's coast after an amazing 22,000-mile-journey across the ocean that took 14 years.

A Chinese cargo ship loaded with the garish yellow toys and on route to the US was struck by a hurricane in 1992, emptying its contents into the ocean. Fourteen years on and after drifting thousands of miles, around 10,000 of the ducks are expected to hit the British coast early next year.

The ducks have "fans" across the globe with some collectors apparently willing to fork out up to US\$2,000 dollars for one.

Oceanographer Curtis Ebbesmeyer said, "We're getting reports of ducks being washed up on America's eastern seaboard. It is now inevitable that they will get caught up in the Atlantic currents and will turn up on English beaches. Cornwall will probably get the first wave of them."

The ducks started their trip 14 years ago when 29,000 fell into the sea near the International Dateline on the way to Tacoma, in the US's Washington State.

During the first three years, 19,000 ducks drifted 6,800 miles at the rate of seven miles a day passing through the waters of Indonesia, Australia, South America, and Hawaii.

The other group of 10,000 ducks marched northwards. This armada was frozen in floating ice as it was about to cross over Bering Straits between Russia and US. It changed its route southwards after 2,000 miles drifting towards the North Pole.

As the ice began to thaw, the ducks journeyed 2,000 miles down the eastern coast of the US. Now they have hit the Gulf Stream circulating warm water from the Caribbean to Britain, and are headed to cross the Atlantic to Britain.

The ducks' incredible trip, "Invasion of the Yellow Ducks", was documented in a BBC Radio 4 program on July 29.

Wal-Mart accedes to first Chinese union

By Gan Tian

The world's biggest retailer Wal-Mart established its first trade union in China on the morning of July 29 in Quanzhou, in south east Fujian.

Twenty five employees of a Wal-Mart shop in Jinjiang elected seven members of their trade union committee, according to a Xinhua report. Thirty Wal-Mart employees had applied to the Quanzhou City Federation of Trade Unions to establish their own labor union.

Wal-Mart became a target of the All-China Federation of Trade Unions (ACFTU), for refusing to establish trade unions in its chains in China two years ago. Before the opening of the Chinese Trade Unions 14th National Congress in 2003, the ACFTU officially urged Wal-Mart to establish trade unions.

Harley Shaiken, a labor economist at the University of California, Berkeley, said that China's state-backed unions

were known for supporting, rather than challenging, foreign corporations. However, after two years of efforts, things are set to change.

Xu Deming, vice president of the ACFTU said, according to China's trade union laws, enterprises of institutions with 25 employees and above should have trade unions, which should safeguard the economic, political and cultural rights of workers. Also, all employees have the right to join the ACFTU, and

anyone who applies to set up a union should be approved by the company.

One of the major tasks of the ACFTU in 2006 is to push foreign-funded or trans-national companies to unionize, Xu said.

Wal-Mart now has 59 stores in 30 cities in China where it started doing business in 1996. It is said to employ more than 23,000 people across the country. Wal-Mart employs 1.7 million people worldwide, including 1.3 million in the United States.

Prisons open for public visits

Beijing, July 27 (PTI) – Beijing has decided to open several of its once sealed-off prisons to regular public visits as part of efforts to ensure more transparency.

A jail opened to the public last week was the second in the city, following Beijing Women's Prison, opened earlier last month, to welcome outside visitors on certain days.

People over 18 years old can now apply for a one-day visit to Beijing Prison, located in the suburbs, home to nearly 2,000 male convicts serving sentences of more than 15 years, a prison official said.

"Nearly 100 people visited the prison on the first open day," said Sun Xibin, deputy head of the prison, adding that the first batch were group visitors organized by the Chinese military.

The facilities opened to the public include the inmates' cells, communal areas, psychological counseling centers, and the prison's factory.

He said visitors can meet and talk to inmates under supervision.

"A transparent approach under the public's supervision helps improve the quality of prison administration," an official with Beijing Prisons Administration Bureau, Li Zhonglin said.

He said opening the prisons makes the inmates feel less isolated from the outside world and will help them reintegrate society after their release.



To welcome the upcoming Beijing Olympic Games, prisoners in Beijing Women's Prison put on their own performances to celebrate.

CFP Photo

Interview with the reporter

I was astonished by this story at first glance. I realized Chinese society is opening up, even if just on the surface.

It's a positive step and good thing nevertheless. It brings more transparency to your government management and legal system.

In India, we have not reached such a high tolerance yet. I believe even some Western countries cannot be so tolerant yet.

I wrote another story last week about former prisoners became security guards in Beijing. I fully agree with the decision of their employers. We should do our best to accept rehabilitated criminals as long as they have changed their concepts and behavior.

— Anil K. Joseph, PTI Beijing

Beijing fog and rain causes traffic chaos

Beijing, August 2 (Reuters) – Heavy rains and fog in Beijing on Monday forced flight cancellations and severe traffic jams on major highways, throwing the spotlight on the capital's readiness for the 2008 Olympics.

Beijing's biggest downpour this summer flooded a section of the airport expressway, causing traffic to back up about 15 kilometers (9 miles) and leaving cars stuck for over four hours, the state-run *Beijing News* said.

Some people abandoned their cars and dragged their luggage up the highway in an attempt to catch flights.

But over 360 flights were delayed and 60 cancelled due to the dual onslaught of fog and heavy rain, and 10 major roads were cut off, according to state media.

Beijing's Olympic Games will open in two years and a week from Tuesday. August is usually one of Beijing's wettest months, with regular storms and heavy rains.

When the Olympics opens on August 8, 2008, Beijing is expected to be swamped by around 40,000 athletes and officials, 50,000 reporters, 100,000 volunteers and over two million tourists.

The Beijing Organizing Committee for the Olympic Games told Reuters it was sure new subways and better traffic management would mean a smooth Olympics.

"We are confident and capable that our preparations will ensure safe and punctual traffic management," spokesman Sun Weide said.

Beijing plans for second airport

Hong Kong, July 31 (MarketWatch) – Beijing will move ahead with plans to build a second airport, with site selection work to be accelerated in coming weeks.

Authorities have narrowed the site selection to two possible locations. One possibility is near Nanyuan Airport south of Beijing. A second location under study is near the city of Langfang, in Hebei Province.

The project is in its preliminary stages, and construction work is not likely to begin until after the 2008 Olympic Games.

Selection criteria for the site will depend upon airspace, proximity to central Beijing and the economic benefits to surrounding areas.

Beijing Capital Airport, the nation's busiest, has seen its traffic growth restricted because of weather problems and limitations on flight patterns over the nation's capital.

Between July to September up to 580 flights are expected to be delayed or rescheduled because of late-afternoon electrical storms, according to Xinhua.

Aviation specialists said Lang-



A China Eastern airliner taking off from Beijing International Airport. The airport is undergoing a massive expansion.

AFP Photo

fang was a front runner because the airspace above the city had fewer restrictions and there were no large residential areas near the site.

Nanyuan Airport is about 30 kilometers from the Beijing's downtown. The airport also has the advantage of being located in Beijing's Daxing District, within the capital's jurisdiction. Langfang is more than 40 kilometers from the center of the city, about an hour's drive from Tiananmen Square.

Analysts said building the second airport in Langfang could boost economic development in the

Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei area. Guidelines set by the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) stipulate economic development goals should be considered in the site selection process.

Earlier plans to build a second airport in the Beijing area were scrapped in favor of expanding the existing Capital Airport. A third terminal and runway is due to open by the end of 2007, in time to serve the 2008 Olympic Games.

The current airport facilities can handle 35 million passengers and 780,000 tons of cargo every year.

Interview with the reporter

I read this report in China Daily this morning and rewrote it right away, because I have not found any other media, including native Chinese media, covering this topic.

Beijing is to hold the Olympic Games in 2008, it has become a hot topic around the world. People are interested to know everything happening in the city.

To be honest, I don't think it is necessary to build a second airport in Beijing now, especially when the existing international airport is being

expanded. You can not finish the construction of a totally new airport before the Games. Nor can you forecast market demand after the Games.

It's the similar case with the overall economy in China – infrastructure surplus. Too much repeated infrastructure construction. It's not economical, bad for the environment and there is a lot of risks in operating and maintaining what gets built.

— Chris Oliver, chief editor, MarketWatch, Hong Kong

Dalian to build the first self developed maglev

Beijing, July 31 (AP) – Dalian, in China's northeast, plans to build the first commercial Chinese-made magnetic-levitation train this year.

The system would be China's second maglev line, following one in Shanghai that was built with German technology. Construction of a line from Shanghai to the nearby city of Hangzhou is due to start in 2009.

Maglev technology uses powerful magnets to suspend a train above its rails and drive it forward at high speed.

The Dalian maglev will be smaller and slower than the one in Shanghai, covering three kilometers at top speed of 218 kph. The Shanghai system, which links one of the city's airports with its financial district, covers 30 kilometers at up to 430 kph.

The report didn't give a cost for the Dalian train. But it cited Li Lingqun, chief engineer of the team that developed it, as saying it will cost half the price of foreign-made systems.

The Dalian city government began financing Li's research in 2003, the report said.

Li said, "This technology has proven successful in the workshop, as the train moved soundlessly through the air above the rails."

Li's team also has developed a second maglev engine capable of a top speed of 536 kph (335 mph), the report said.

Interview with the editor

We used this report because a rapidly developing China is always top of our international news, especially in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games.

Another reason is that rumors months ago were that China was stealing maglev technology from the Germans when they built the train in Shanghai.

The Dalian line is very short, only three kilometers. It seems it is only experimental, rather than a commercial train line.

I'm sure the foreign media will keep an eye on the new line to see what difference in technology there is to the German-built one.

— Richard Woolveridge, editor, smh.com.au, Sydney Morning Herald



Maglev trains in Shanghai, China. Dalian would be China's second maglev line.

AP Photo

Biggest coal transport railway listed

By Qiu Jiaoning

Daqin Railway Co. Ltd, the operator of China's biggest coal transport railway has gone listed with an initial public offer (IPO) on the Shanghai Stock Exchange, according to Tuesday's announcement by China's Ministry of Railways (MOR).

The company has raised 15 billion yuan by issuing 3.03 billion shares at a price of 4.95

yuan per share. Its IPO is the second-largest in over a year. The biggest was Bank of China's 20 billion yuan offer in June.

Daqin railway, linking Datong City in coal-rich Shanxi Province and the port city of Qinhuangdao in Hebei Province, will use the proceeds of the share sale to upgrade infrastructure and equipment and expand capacity, which may

ease the transportation bottlenecks that have helped drive up coal prices.

The 1,000 kilometer-long railway transported more than 90 percent of the coal produced in the country's major coal mining areas of Shanxi and western Inner Mongolia between 2003 and 2005.

It also provides railway freight services for coke,

cement, ore, iron, steel, and wood, said Liang Chenggu, an official from the MOR.

China is the world's biggest coal producer. Last year, the company transported 239.18 million metric tons of coal from the inland areas for coal-fired power plants along the coastal areas of the country. Its cargo transportation revenue reached 12.2 billion yuan in 2005.

China opens up to direct sales

By Chu Meng

After global direct sales giant Avon received the Chinese government's first ever license for direct selling this February, a second batch of four companies attained legal status in the Chinese mainland China this Tuesday.

Through its official website, the Ministry of Commerce announced that four new direct sellers are: US-invested Nu Skin (China) Daily-Use & Health Products, Hong Kong-invested Pro-Health (China) Company, and two domestic enterprises: Zhen-Ao Group and Yilishen Tianxi Group. And sources said another 10 companies from home and abroad would also probably receive licenses within the week.

Shares in America of Nu Skin, a direct seller of high-end skin care products, jumped by 16.4 percent right after the company received the license. Prior to that, it had traded sluggishly in the past 52 weeks, down about 19 percent since the beginning of the year.

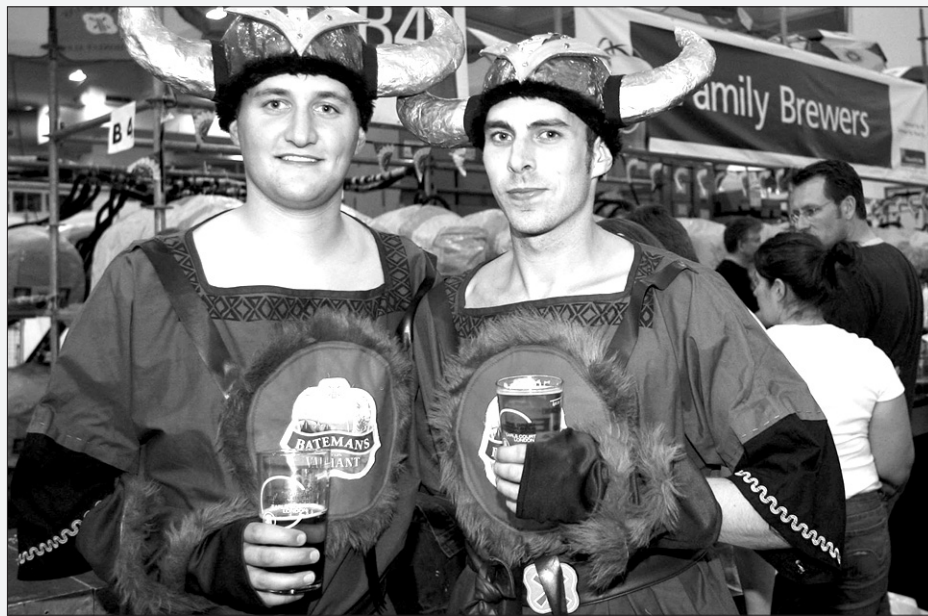
But another American major direct sales business Amway (China), actually the first such company to bring the business to China, was excluded for the second time. Since losing the first race with Avon in February, Amway had pledged to gain a license as soon as possible.

Avon has not wasted time extending in China. It has more than 114,000 door-to-door salespeople since acquiring the first official license. Gao Shoukang, president of Avon China, said that by the end of June of this year another 31,000 applicants were undergoing appraisals for the positions.

"The warm response from the employment market signifies great market potential for Avon's products in China. Ninety percent of Avon's 5,700 outlets in China are servicing direct salespeople," Gao said.

Under China's regulations, all certificated direct sales agents should have their personal and sales records registered on the website of the Ministry of Commerce for public search.

This pint's giving me the horn



Two vikings enjoy the annual Great Britain Beer Festival. Over 700 brand beers are gathering in London this week to promote their wares. The festival will end August 5.

Xinhua Photo

Siberia-Pacific oil pipeline under construction

Irkutsk, August 1 (Itar-Tass) – Three hundred and forty-three kilometers of the future route have been prepared for the construction. One hundred and thirty-four kilometers of pipes have been welded, and 114 kilometers of pipes have been laid and covered with earth.

CEOs of Transneft subsidiaries Anatoly Bezverkhov and Alexei Suprunov said in Irkutsk.

The first segment of the new pipeline, between Taishet in the Irkutsk region and Skovorodino in the Amur region, will become operational in the end of 2008. Simultaneously, an extension will be built from Skovorodino



The Siberia-Pacific oil pipeline construction is going on well.

AFP Photo

to the Russian-Chinese border.

"The eastern oil pipeline is of paramount importance not only for Russia but also for the Asia-Pacific region, including China,"

Bezverkhov said.

Chinese journalists asked how the project is financed. They were told that Transneft is using its own funds and loans.

'Barometer of Beijing's auto trade' moves north

By Gan Tian

Yayuncun auto market began a move to the north on Wednesday. The move is thought to have been prompted by rising land prices in the area. It will be finished by the end of the month. However, customers can still complete most trades before August 22.

The new location is in Dongsanqi, Qijiazhen, Changping, with an area of nearly 200,000 square meters.



The decade old Yayuncun auto market went into history.

CFP Photo

Yayuncun auto market is the biggest car market in Beijing. It is also regarded as the 'barometer' of

China's vehicle business. More than one million cars have been sold there since its opening in 1995.

BMO offers RMB services

Beijing, July 31 (Investor Executive) – BMO Financial Group has become the first Canadian bank approved to provide corporate renminbi services in Beijing.

The wide range of banking services include deposits, loans, trade finance and other capital markets products to corporations. This makes BMO the only Canadian bank that has full corporate RMB capability for both foreign and domestic corporations.

Fuyao bids for Ford's glass assets

Shanghai, August 1 (Reuters) – Fuyao Group Glass Industries Co. Ltd., China's biggest auto glass maker, is set to bid for Automotive Component Holdings LLC, North American glass making assets of Ford Motor Co.

Fuyao has held two rounds of talks with Ford and has been selected to submit a final bid for the glass assets, a source told Reuters.

Kodak outsources digicam manufacture

Beijing, August 1 (Inquirer) – Kodak outsourced its digital camera manufacturing to Flextronics, along with 500 staff.

Flextronics will look after the entire digicam manufacturing including assembly, production and testing.

Flextronics will own a significant chunk of its Digital Product Center in Japan and China and warehousing and assembly in Shanghai.

First Metro store opened in Beijing

Beijing, July 30 (XFN) – The world's third-largest retailer, Germany's Metro Co, opened its first store in Beijing over the weekend.

The new outlet offers items for professional customers such as hotels, restaurants and government organizations.

The retailer plans to open 4 stores in Beijing before 2008 and six to ten annually in China.

Starwood to open more hotels

White Plains, N.Y. (AP) – Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide Inc. said it will open two more hotels in China.

The two hotels are the 300-room Four Points in Zhongshan by Sheraton Tianjin and the 350-room Four Points in Binjiang by Sheraton Hangzhou.

Starwood now operates 26 hotels in mainland China, Taiwan and Macau, with 27 new hotels under construction.

Sanyuan talks with Uni-President

Shanghai, August 2 (Reuters) – Beijing Sanyuan Foods Co, a major Chinese dairy products maker, said it was in talks with several overseas firms on the possibility of them buying a strategic stake in Sanyuan.

The overseas firms included Taiwan's biggest food conglomerate, Uni-President Enterprises Corp.

Landis' drug test puts another hero in doubt

By Mike Lopresti (USA Today)

And so another vial of bad news has stolen headlines and turned congratulations into questions. Floyd Landis, Tour de France champion and new American idol, supposedly comes up dirty in a drug test.

Can't be. Can it?

Impossible, and wrong, to say for sure at the moment. Might be yes. Might be no. This is modern sport. So many times, from the batter's box to the shot-put ring, the answer is maybe.

Landis was a sudden superman, a fresh face to plant on the front of magazine covers, and perhaps a cereal box. And now he's not. Maybe.

The hope is that it is all a mistake, or a misunderstanding. That Sample B will overrule Sample A, or however that works, and Landis' dramatic comeback will remain untainted. His drug-drenched sport — a gaggle of big names never even made it to the starting line of the Tour de France because of various sanctions — needs no more scandal.

But no matter how it ends, this is a road heavily traveled, and not just by men on bicycles.

Do we get many conquering heroes any more, with stories that stay above ... complications?

Comments:

I think it's pretty clear the tests used in cycling just simply are not reliable enough. I haven't seen one word mentioned of the sensitivity or specificity of the testosterone/epi ratio for detecting doping and supra-physiologic levels. They need more studies demonstrating what a positive test really means after successive days of negative results, and to determine what interaction such as the stress of the race or other approved medications might have on this ratio.

— Jason

Floyd is right — this will never go away, he will always be labeled a 'doper', and his incredible TDF accomplishments will be forever tainted — even if exonerated.

Very sad how easily one's reputation can be ruined. We still support him and find his attitude, determination, and drive HEROIC.

— Andy



Floyd Landis celebrating after he won the 17th stage of the Tour de France 2006 in Morzine, France, July 20.

CFP Photo

Everyone knows how the French officials hate for the Americans to win their competition. Somewhere along the line someone doctored the sample. I expect B to show positive also. It is a shame that a competitor like Landis has to go through this.

— hal

I think that it's strange that his 'medical records' can be released so quickly before a final determination has been made. I guess you sign away those rights when you start the TDF. A little more restraint in the reporting of this information should be in order.

— skippy

Landis did not cheat, he will be cleared, but as he says the damage to reputation cannot be repaired.

— wikester

Landis was probably doping all along. He likely panicked when he had the bad stage and was virtually out of the race and made a mistake with his dosages. Many people who are alleging that testosterone won't help a cyclist are forgetting that it dramatically helps the body and in particular the muscles recover faster. In a competition like the Tour de France where they race day after day, using testosterone would give the athlete a tremendous physical advantage in being able to recover faster from the physical demands of the previous day.

— Larry Ottawa, Canada

Floyd is innocent until further testing is done by an independent lab not in France! If a full investigation is done it will no doubt clear Floyd.

This is a matter of principle, if there is no accountability by the powers that be than the testers are worse than the dopers.

— Mike

The worst thing is that the French have been looking for something different after Lance. Unfortunately they didn't get anything else but another American taking the glory!!!!

— MTN Biker

There always has to be some controversy; all it does is bring negative attention to someone who is assumed guilty until proven otherwise. Society seems to love controversy. I seriously doubt he's guilty.

— Duh!

Weekly topics

Newsweek (USA)

1. US plans for post-Fidel Cuba
2. Q&A: How would Raul Castro lead Cuba?
3. Lockpicks see security flaw in most locks
4. What really matters in the Gibson case
5. How text messaging could change US politics

New York Times (USA)

1. Men not working, and not wanting just any job
2. Tax cheats called out of control
3. US wins access to reporter phone records
4. Bush's embrace of Israel shows gap with father
5. Evolution's backers in Kansas mount a counterattack

Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)

1. 'I just want to spend time with my kids'
2. Identity theft virus infects 10,000 computers
3. Thin end of wedge politics
4. Justice for the farmer who killed to save his family
5. Sydney suffers the most pain

Toronto Star (Canada)

1. Boat jacked by a bear
2. Drive-by abuse stings Canadian jazz star
3. Heavy Net users are loners, study suggests
4. '24-hr scorcher' a new record
5. The foulness is funny

Daily Telegraph (UK)

1. Paris beach bans thongs
2. Israelis edge closer to war with Syria
3. 'The woman who was my world'
4. Straw revolts against Blair over Israel
5. What makes us human?

Beautiful people tend to have girls, say scientists

By waggglebee

(www.freerepublic.com)

"HOLLYWOOD'S most beautiful couple, Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie, is in the grip of evolutionary forces that made it almost inevitable that their child would be a girl," Roger Dobson and Yuba Bessaoud report in the *Sunday Times*.

"According to research, attractive parents are 26 percent more likely to have a daughter than a son as their first child" because of differing "evolutionary strategies" that each sex has adopted to survive, claim researchers at the London School of Economics.

"While reproductive success for males depends largely on the status of the father, daughters' reproductive successes mostly depend on

their youth and attractiveness. 'We have shown two things,' said Dr Satoshi Kanazawa, who led the research. 'Beautiful parents have more daughters than ugly parents, because physical attractiveness is heritable and because daughters benefit from attractiveness more than sons.'

"The research, in the *Journal of Theoretical Biology*, analyzed more than 20,000 people in America. Researchers rated their beauty according to height, weight and apparent age, all factors that can be used to judge basic attraction levels without subjective viewpoints. Only first-born children were included in the analysis," the report says.

Besides Pitt and Jolie, the Hol-

lywood couple Reese Witherspoon and Ryan Phillippe, whose first-born daughter Ava, lend weight to the theory.

Comments:

Makes perfect sense, my first was a girl. :)

— Pro-Bush

Sex ratios differ by ethnic and racial groups. One odd finding: for every group, an illegitimate child is more likely to be a boy.

— Dante3

It has to do with ph levels, AFAIK — the earlier in the fertile part of the cycle that fertilization occurs, the more likely the baby is to be a girl. And what a surprise, the husband can't keep his hands off his beautiful wife.

What this has to do with Angelina Jolie is beyond me.

— SunkenCiv

This is good news. Poor ugly. Where will they find good wives or husbands?

— Firozali A. Mulla MBA PhD

3,000 Americans is 750 couples with 2 children — not enough to be certain that this is not just chance, particularly with beauty being very subjectively in the eye of the beholder. It may be true but lets not take it too seriously until the study has been independently repeated.

This is one of the problems with media science reporting — sexy or politically correct research tends to get reported all

round the world before it is certain. Since old news isn't news I don't think there is a full solution to this problem except for healthy scepticism.

— Neil

What a load of crap! My older sister is very pretty and slim, I'm just a plane-jane and fat. Her first-born was a boy while mine was a girl.

— Helen

I think this sample is way too low, and there maybe a regional or ethnic variation. Also, were these just Caucasians, Hispanics, mixed-ancestry volunteers? Body hair? Some women love it, others don't. I think this makes great headlines but bad science.

— Travieso

(By Jiang Xubo)

Three tourists die in Shunyi horror smash

By He Jianwei

A man from the Netherlands and a man and a woman from Ireland died in a minibus crash with a heavy-duty truck in Shunyi District Tuesday morning, the Municipal Information Department said.

The accident happened on the

way to Simatai Great Wall at a crossroads in Shunyi District when the two vehicles tried to avoid each other. The cement drainage pipes on the truck fell onto the minibus. The three tourists died on the spot and another Dutch woman was injured.

The list of casualties is con-

firmed by their embassies. The Dutch man, named Matthijs Kramer was a representative of local parliament in Zeeland in the Netherlands. The injured woman was Wendy Jansen, a press officer in the Netherlands Embassy.

The Irish man, named Fintan James McCarthy, was a teacher.

The Irish woman was Sonya Mary Rabbite, said the Irish Embassy.

The accident is still under investigation and their bodies will be transported home as soon as possible. There were seven foreign tourists, a Chinese guide, and a Chinese driver in the minibus, according to the embassies.

A shrine for Paola Sandri

By Jackie Zhang

A shrine has been placed on the spot where Paola Sandri met her death, the Italian woman who was fatally stabbed last month. It was erected last weekend in the grass field west of Beijing Art Academy, south of Chaoyang Park.

Paola Sandri was killed early last Tuesday morning, as a result of a mugging.



Photo by Li Qiang and Zhang Weifeng

Top European dating company seduces China

By Han Manman

While lovers are busy celebrating Chinese Valentine's Day on July 31, the biggest European dating website Meetic.com will officially launch the Chinese version of its site.

This launch follows Meetic's acquisition of 70 percent of eFriendsNet, the first joint network for mobile phone and online dating in China, which operates China's largest online dating website Yeeyoo.com. Besides entering meetic.com.cn, Chinese visitors can also enter Yeeyoo.com to find Meetic's page.

Mayun, the eFriendsNet president said that the domestic online dating market is still in its infancy. Bringing the advanced foreign online dating format to China could have a domino effect on domestic online dating's development.

After registering on the web-

site and writing down your requirements for an ideal partner, the search engine will list the best candidates for you from the website's 220 million registered users all over the world.

Compared with lots of domestic dating websites, Meetic.com.cn seems more focused on Sino-foreign dating. When entering the Chinese page, lots of registered members are westerners that live in China. "Lots of our members come from overseas, they want to find true love in China," a Meetic worker said.

Twenty-seven year old Jason is a Beijinger. He also plans to join Meetic. He doesn't care if the girl of his dreams is Chinese or western. "I believe my feelings," he said, "True love has no national boundaries."

Meetic is online now at www.meetic.com.cn

Puppet festival just won't put a sock in it

By Annie Wei

If you've missed the International Puppet Festival so far, don't worry. Pinocchio worshippers can expect another three weeks of string jointed frivolity at China Puppet Art Theater. During the festival, the China Puppet Art Troupe prepared interesting puppet shows for children and invited other puppet groups from different countries like Bulgaria, Belgium, Croatia and Russia.

All the puppet troupes are internationally awarded, and it's the first time many have been seen in Beijing, according to Wang Xiaoying, an associate from China Puppet Art Theater.

However, each troupe will

only perform in Beijing for three days. In the coming weeks, a Belgian troupe will perform *Oetsie Poetsie* on Friday, Saturday and Sunday. *Oetsie Poetsie* is about two office cleaners who pretend to be cute animals to break the monotony of work.

Face to Face Theatre-Split from Croatia will perform *Cats on Hot Roofs of Split* on Friday, a story about cats and their lives. Over the next three weekends, China Puppet Art Troupe will perform the famous *Swan Lake*.

Tickets for the puppet shows are 50, 80 and 100 yuan. For details of times and schedules, call 64254847 or 65598285.



Timo Boll CFP Photo

German table tennis star finds China tough

By He Jianwei

German table tennis player Timo Boll's single point couldn't save his club in Wednesday's China Table Tennis Super League match against rivals Beijing.

Timo Boll, who plays for Zhejiang Haining Hongxiang Club, overcame Beijing Tongniu's Ma Long 3-0 in the singles but was beaten 2-3 by Hou Yingchao. Boll had won five matches and lost three in the China Super League up until Wednesday's fixtures.

Zhejiang Haining Hongxiang Club is Boll's second Chinese club and he made his debut on June 28. "Boll plays in the China Table Tennis Super League because it's a good opportunity to play high-quality players and improve his technique," said Hu Weijian, the manager and interpreter for the Zhejiang Club.

More and more foreign table tennis players have joined China's clubs in the last two years. Foreign players can play in the Chinese League as long as they first have made a contract with a Chinese club, and registered with the Chinese Table Tennis Association, said Yuan Hua, an official with the China Table Tennis and Badminton Administration Center.

Besides Boll, nine foreign players have taken part in this year's China Table Tennis Super League. Most of them are the top players on the list of rankings by the International Table Tennis Federation. Korean player Rye Seung-min, a gold medalist in the Athens Olympics 2004, now plays for Sichuan Quanxing Club. His teammate in the team, Oh Sang Eun is in a club in Jiangsu. The Belgian veteran player Saive Jean Michel now is a teammate with Rye Seung-min. The famous 'Baby Face' Fukuhara Ai from Japan plays for Guangdong's club.

Ethiopia to recruit more Chinese teachers

By Han Manman

The Ethiopian government will recruit as many new teachers and professors from universities in China as possible for 12 newly established Ethiopian universities, which will be opened in September this year, Ethiopian ambassador Haile-Kiros Gessesse revealed.

"We want to recruit teachers from Chinese universities. The teachers could teach in Ethiopia as

long as they want, but one year is the minimum," said the ambassador, adding, "We have many teachers from the international community, and there is an international payment standard. Our payment is very good, they could earn much more in Ethiopia than in China".

The ambassador said since the Ethiopian government was established in 1991, the country's major focus was infrastructure and education. Ethiopia has

eight government-owned universities now and will open 12 large universities from this September in different regions of Ethiopia. A lack of teachers is a problem in every area. So the government is trying to recruit as many teachers as possible from all over the world, especially from China.

"We have many Chinese teachers now in our vocational schools, they are very good at teaching. They are well experienced and dis-

ciplined and full of responsibility. Our students like them very much," said the ambassador.

The only worry for the Ethiopian government when recruiting Chinese teachers is the language barrier since all the subjects taught will be in English.

Teachers and professors can contact the Ethiopian embassy in Beijing. Make sure you take your resume if you're selected for an interview.

Ethiopia is a backward country in some people's minds. The ambassador said that lots of people have a hazy understanding about Ethiopia. "I don't think the teachers will have any problems in Ethiopia. Ethiopia is a very pleasant country with sunshine all the time. Ethiopia is also very disciplined. There is no crime, no corruption, and you can walk at midnight, that is no problem."

Did someone say yodel? It's Swiss national day



Due to a lack of fences in Beijing, the Swiss have to make do with sitting on chairs.
Photo provided by Eileen Yan

By Qiu Jiaoning

The Swiss Society Beijing, the Embassy of Switzerland and the SwissCham Beijing held a series of celebrations marking Swiss National Day on Tuesday.

Beijing's lederhosen clad neutrality lovers spent the day at Chateau Regalia's Clubhouse and swimming pool. Hungry cuckoos climbed out of their clocks to enjoy a buffet dinner and barbecue, while a free flow of soft drinks, beer and wine drowned the sorrows of those experiencing lack of altitude sickness. A lantern procession and fireworks followed into the evening.

In addition, ambassador Dante Martinelli and Switzerland Tourism China held a press conference to promote Swiss tourism in China. According to Charles-Andre Ramseier, deputy manager of the Lake Geneva Region Tourist Board, Geneva has been training tour guides in Chinese.

Since 1891, August 1 has been celebrated as Swiss National Day. The date refers to a historic alliance concluded in 1291 by the three cantons of Uri, Schwyz and Unterwalden. This alliance was to become the focal point around which the Switzerland of today was built over the next 500 years.

Embassy of Jamaica celebrates first birthday

By Chu Meng

The embassy of Jamaica celebrated its first birthday this Wednesday night in Beijing. The embassy was established July 18 last year.

Wayne McCook, Ambassador of Jamaica and his wife praised the achievement of the bilateral relationship between China and Jamaica during the past year. The Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Yang Jiechi thanked the efforts by Jamaica to enhance political and economic ties since 1972.

Besides the officials, sponsors Jamaica Blue Mountain Coffee grabbed their share of the limelight during the evening. They entered the Chinese market with the establishment of the embassy, and have enjoyed a solid success.

How to live longer

By Jackie Zhang

Since the dawn of time people have been willing to do almost anything to prolong their earthly existence. This Sunday, three English scientists will hold a discussion on the topic, and how today's medical science can help at CafeScientifique at the British Council Beijing Office.

The three scientists John Harris, Stephen Minger and Heather Draper are experts in 'life sciences and life ethics'.

Along with the development of medical sciences, different methods for prolonging people's lives have been

improving step by step. While scientists are optimistic about us staying young and living longer, these discussions on the issue will address the scientific and philosophical questions that arise. It will influence not only man's physical health, but also the whole of society if every disease ceases to be terminal.

In CafeScientifique, you will have a chance to add your comments and discuss them with the three scientists.

The discussion will begin 2:30pm Sunday afternoon. For bookings, mail cafescientifique@britishcouncil.org.cn.

South Africa to start Beijing roadshow

By Han Manman

A five-city roadshow to highlight South Africa's tourism and culture will kick off in Beijing Oriental Plaza in August 11.

Organized by the South African tourist agency and the South African Embassy, the roadshow will begin in Beijing on August 11 and come to Shanghai, Guangzhou, Chengdu and Hong Kong successively until September 10 this year.

The roadshow will use a mobile billboard truck to drive around each city during weekdays and then park at strategic venues for the weekend events, to offer three days immersion into its cultural exhibitions, World Cup 2010 preview and provincial showcases, along with fun activities and entertainment.

"This is going to be one of the most exciting and entertaining travel shows ever seen in China. If you want to know what we have planned for the 2010

World Cup, if you are anxious to dance vigorously with authentic tribal dancers, and if you want to win a free trip to South Africa then come join us when the roadshow stops in Beijing," said Zolelwa Mukozho, Portfolio Manager for Asia and Australasia for South African Tourism.

At the roadshow, visitors can explore South African culture through heart pounding African drums, Zulu dance performances and authentic South African arts and crafts including beadwork and artistic paintings. In the evening, a magnificent 'South African Night' will let visitors taste the unique cuisine of South Africa including wild, exotic game. Manqoba Nyembezi, Tourism Attache from South African Embassy Beijing said that cutting edge South African fashion designers would present a South Africa Fashion Week 2006, so visitors can enjoy South Africa's trendy and energetic lifestyle.



By Annie Wei

Since authorities relaxed controls on dog ownership in 2003, the number of dogs in Beijing has skyrocketed. According to statistics from the Public Security Bureau, Beijing has 458,000 registered dogs as of the end of June 2005. The Association for the Protection of Small Animals estimates that Beijing has more than one million dogs.

Disease and disruption

Beijingers are becoming concerned about the threat of rabies, and that's not all. Beijing's Health Bureau said that 23,623 people were bitten by dogs in 1996, with that figure increasing to 84,509 in 2004 and 50,000 in the first half-year of 2005. Meanwhile, the huge number of dogs is being blamed for several quality-of-life issues affecting the public, including dog excrement left in the streets and unchecked barking and the annoyance of neighbors.

Wang Hong, an IT executive and the owner of three large dogs in Shunyi District said that he has two big worries: disease and the dogs' behavior.

Wang is not the only owner in town puzzled by his dogs' behavior.

Cultured canines

Frank Fan from the International Center for Veterinary Services, a newly opened full-service, international standard animal hospital in Beijing, has already held three classes on canine socialization and obedience training during the hospital's soft opening earlier this year. The center is now officially open and is taking registrations for dog training classes.

According to Fan, he interviews and then selects only five owners and their dogs for each training class. The small class size

Beijing's problem pooches go back to school



My exemption 'claws', signed A. Dog

CFP Photo

allows him to provide individual counseling and training for each of the owners and their dogs.

"Different dogs have totally different personalities, the training must be customized, so it's impossible to run a big class," Fan said. The education of dogs and of dog owners in China bears some similarities to the situation that dog owners in the United States faced back in the 1950s or 1960s.

Within the context of more traditional Chinese values, dogs in China were regarded as either a good meal or a good gatekeeper.

Some large breeds of dog over 35 centimeters such as Collies, Terriers, and German Shepherds are not allowed to be owned within the 4th ring road in Beijing.

Mistreated

Fan's newly adopted dog True was abandoned by his original owners. "True is a sweet dog," Fan said, "and he could have been a very good service dog." However, True's behavior revealed to Fan that the dog may have been mistreated and beaten in the past.

"Money is not the main issue for Chinese people to have dogs any more," Fan said. Instead, many

people in Beijing want knowledge on how to raise their dogs but find very few resources that provide relevant and useful information. Clients of the center are both local Chinese and expatriates who are eager to learn more about the best ways to care for their pets.

Contact:

The International Center for Veterinary Services is located at the Kent Center, No. 29 Liang Ma Qiao Road, An Jia Lou, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100016

Tel: 84561939/1940/1941

Fax: 64332301

Website: www.ICVSASIA.com

Legal writing competition launched

By Jackie Zhang

The Young Lawyers Online Community writing competition was jointly launched by the British Council Beijing and the *Legal Daily* on Wednesday.

Two topics were identified for this English language writing competition in consultation with YLOC members and relevant legal practitioners in China and the UK. The first one is China's imminent anti-monopoly law and the other is an analysis of the enforceability of foreign related arbitration and dispute resolution decisions on Chinese businesses. The competition invites writers from both China and the UK. Papers can be submitted to younglawyer@britishcouncil.org.cn with Writing Competition in the subject area. The deadline for submission is September 30.

A total of 15 legal experts and professionals have been invited to be members of the judging panel. The winners from the UK and China will be invited to join a group of distinguished speakers from both countries for a three-stop visiting lecture tour in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in January next year. They will have a chance to exchange ideas with senior legal practitioners and their peers. Another eight selected candidates will be awarded second-prize.

YLOC is a web-based platform developed by the British Council to provide networking opportunities for young legal professionals in China, the UK and the rest of the world for strengthening communication and co-operation. For detailed information, visit: www.younglawyer.org.

SOS assistance for World Junior Championships

By Jiang Xubo

The International SOS First-Aid Center signed an agreement with the organizing committee of the International Association of Athletics Federations World Junior Championships this week and became the

games' international medical assistance provider.

The SOS will provide first-aid services for the games to cope with foreign athletes getting injured or needing to be transferred to their home countries for treatment.

Athletes are prone to injury because of the high summer temperature in the capital. The International SOS will perform its duty under the guidance and authorization of the organizing committee of the WJC.

Around 1,600 athletes from

more than 180 countries and regions, will participate the games according to the game's organizing committee.

The International SOS, founded in 1985, has set up medical branches in over 60 countries and regions around the world.

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BEIJING TODAY

August Promotion

E

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 Promotion ends on 31th August, 2006

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Promotion

Illegal bikers told to hit the road



PSB check riders' IDs at the gate of Beijing Language and Culture University on July 12.

Photo by Gao Peng

By Annie Wei

Since July 6, Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau, Traffic Bureau and the Public Security Bureau in Haidian District have been working together to crack down on the illegal motorbike scene.

The illegal activity is most often bikes without a formal purchasing receipt, license plate or road tax. The main areas with illegal motorbike activity are Haidian and Chaoyang districts. "To be more precise," said Gao Feng, a policeman from Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau, "Wudaokou, Wangjing and Sanlitun area." Huh, sounds familiar!

Within a month, police have caught more than 50 people with illegal bikes. "They are from different countries, including South Korea, Cuba, Denmark, the USA, France, Belgium, the UK, and more."

"About ten percent are female foreign riders," Gao said.

Riding a motorbike is quite trendy in the expat community. However, most foreigners who are seen driving their motorbikes over the speed limit or dangerously are doing an illegal thing.

Accident cases involving illegal motorbikes are increasing every year.

Gao said when they were busy with illegal motorbikes in Haidian District two weeks ago, another motorbike accident happened in Chaoyang area.

A French student, in his early twenties, was riding illegally and knocked over an old Chinese man.

"Both the French student and the Chinese man were hurt, and the old man was sent to hospital. The French man hired a lawyer but could not have won the case anyway because he was riding illegally."

Instead of going to court, he compensated the Chinese man 40,000 yuan and left China. Gao

refused to disclose the name of the French student or at which school he was studying in Beijing.

Normally, these riders either have bikes with problems or ignore the regulations and traffic laws in China. More than 90 percent of motorbikes you can see on the roads are illegal, according to the PSB.

Last summer, a Chinese girl was killed by falling from the back seat of her American boyfriend's motorbike whilst on the highway. "It really was a tragedy," another officer from the PSB commented.

Gao announced that the police were getting more and more strict with illegal motorbike riders. They have come out with clear plans and strict regulations on foreign riders who ignore China's traffic laws. "Once the illegal behavior is proven, we will shorten their stay in China and ask them to leave the coun-

try," Gao said.

The illegal scene in Haidian district seems the most serious.

"In Wudaokou, you can always see some South Korean students riding over the speed limit and causing traffic horror."

Traffic accidents caused by South Korean students who drive bikes drunkenly happen all the time in the evening, the police said. Chinese residents from the neighborhood also complain.

Beijing Exit and Entry Bureau has a special lecture to notify foreign students who came to schools in Beijing at the beginning of each new semester. They emphasize the importance of safe driving and advise not to purchase illegal motorbikes.

"We tell them that if they are caught riding illegal motorbikes, they will be asked to leave China," Gao said, "No one wants to joke around with their study plans."

ASK Beijing Today

1. Billy M asked: Do secondhand cars in China need to have a certificate from a test house to prove the car is road worthy? In England cars over three years old need an MOT from a testing station to keep the car on the road and to stop the car insurance being void.

A car over six years old needs a certificate from a test house every year. New cars are required to be brought in every two years. When you are going to buy a car in China and drive it, you need to pass a test and go to related classes. You can get more detailed information there. Testing is not expensive – around 200 yuan each time.

2. Billy also wanted to know: When are road signs going to be written in English as well as Chinese? Can I use this as an excuse when it comes to parking in the wrong places?

Main streets, major areas, big shopping malls and international corporation buildings normally have standard road signs both in English and Chinese. Small streets or areas may still have Chinese only. For example, the China-Japan Friendship Hospital has clear road signs written in both languages, while a bus stop away the University of International Business and Economics has only Chinese road signs to guide parking. It might happen that a foreigner who does not know Chinese parks his car incorrectly because he cannot read the signs. *Beijing Today* cannot tell you if you can use that as a valid excuse. You need to ask the policeman who is going to fine you.

3. Leslie Mok asked: What's the going rate for a house cleaner, now I've got to move out of my hotel. And where can I find a good one?

In the local market, a house cleaner or nanny's basic salary is 500 to 600 yuan per month. The price for a nanny who can take care of pregnant woman or a 0-3 year old child is higher, ranging from 800 to 1,200 yuan. Some house cleaners or nannies that have more experience or more skills might cost 1,700 yuan per month or so. Now Filipino maids are also available in town, their price is 3,000 to 5,000 yuan per month.

In the expat community, many people employ house cleaners recommended by their friends. Housemaids with years of experience in working for expat families have a better understanding of western culture compared to house cleaners in the local market. For long-term relationships, being generous and kind is useful for a harmonious society.

You should be aware of:

If you really want to ride a motorbike in Beijing, go to a reliable store for a new one (*Beijing Today* introduced the CJ750 sidecar motorcycles in our May issue). Make sure you get your license plate, road tax and insurance and that your mechanic gets these things

ready for you. According to the PSB, Beijing will not release any more license plates to motorbikes so be aware that there are no new license plates to be had. Licenses from other cities or provinces, such as Hebei are not allowed to drive in the 4th Ring Road.

Log on and offload

By Wei Ying

Every time a friend leaves China, you risk being left with a load of more IKEA bowls and plates and soon you realize that your home has too much stuff of the sort and not enough space. Some things can easily find new owners, for instance good-quality sofas, coffee machines and bicycles. Beer bottles, magazines, newspapers and plastic bottles

piled-up on your balcony or kitchen are different. You have to go downstairs to find the recycling guy, who normally wanders around your compound. There is also the routine argument with your flatmates about who should go to find him.

Now you can book a collection online. Beijing Feipin Jiuhuo (recyclable and used goods) website (<http://www.bj3r.com>) was

launched this week, claiming to be the first online recycling business in town.

Log on to the website and fill out a trade form or call 6286 9880 and they will arrange staff to pick up things you no longer want, including iron (your landlord's used pot, pan or boiler), coke cans, beer bottles, used paper and cardboard.

The website's firm, also a

recycling company, said they have set up more than 80 stores throughout the city. To bring convenience to residents, their service has standard price and strict procedures.

Apart from sending people to pick up your recyclables, they also have a classified section for used things. They have not yet started the business of collecting used clothes and the website is only in Chinese.

Blank expre

By Gareth George and Jiang Xubo

Beijing design group Unmask has been around for a while. From their action figure representations of the self in 2002, through their glass designs for Chivas at the Get it Louder art and design festival, to the stainless steel nude giants of today, Unmask's work is always tinged with an otherworldly beauty. But in distancing themselves from the real world, are Unmask really artists? Or merely designers?



Translucency series, stainless steel and paint, height 270cm, 2006

An Unma question –



Do you know UNMASDK fashion, Cotton, 60cm×60cm, 2002



Translucency series, Stainless steel and paint, height 195cm, 2006

"Most of our work focuses on the male, and you could say that it represents an ideal version of ourselves"



Unmask

There's no one country or place that informs our art, despite the Japanese cartoonish quality of some of our early work. Although we work in many different mediums, we're most comfortable in fiberglass. We feel that our earlier work was more sexual in nature. The newer work – *Translucency* series is more neutral.

Much of our work focuses on the male, and you could say that it represents an ideal version of ourselves. The 'selves' might be androgynous or geographically indeterminate, but we don't consider nationality or sexuality important. We're not interested in politics or satire or the issues that consume many young Chinese artists today. These things don't matter so much to us so we don't discuss them.

Instead we're influenced by travel. Video games, perhaps, but not as much as you might think. Our later works look more mature even to the casual eye and I think you can see we're developing as artists. It wasn't a conscious choice to change the style. We don't know where we will go next, but you can be sure there will be change again. For example, we go abroad at least once a year now. Last year we went to the Louvre [in Paris]. What we saw there inspired our latest creations.

Because our work is apolitical and idealized, you could say we want the world to be brighter and more beautiful than it really is. But we think it's more about uncertainty than perfection, perhaps you can see that in our pieces. We want to explore ourselves and find out who we really are.

Everything looks so perfect, you could say we are afraid of reality. Maybe we are unsatisfied with ourselves, but we haven't seriously thought about this. We feel like we're trying to reconstruct ourselves.

– Liu Zhan, Kuang Jun and Tan Tianwei, the three artists, homogenize into one being for a quick chat

K Kohlll, fiber glass, Bronze and g

ession



Do you know UNMASK? – Lull, light box, 160cm×40cm, 2002

mask retrospective at the Dimensions gallery still begs the question: what are they trying to say?



Shadowless, height 90cm, 2006

Photos provided by Dimensions Art Center



Part of Shadowless



Unmask read Beijing Today

“They turn the ‘self’ into a commodity, and eliminate the distance between art and people”

The Unmask group is a small artistic group formed by Liu Zhan, Kuang Jun and Tan Tianwei in 2001. But in relation to their presentation style, their works have a very strong expressive force, able to seize a scene, project it brightly, clearly and artfully, and penetrate it fully. At the same time, they possess a mix of rebelliousness and adaptation, expressing a kind of strong mood of debauchery in emphasizing ‘self-growth,’ and ‘free choice,’ but a debauchery operating nevertheless in line with the logic of the market.

Unmask’s works touch on all kinds of fields, such as installation, design, and toys. In a commercialized mode, they push art as a commodity towards the viewer and the market, grafting the ‘consumption’ ideal onto their works. They turn the ‘self’ into a commodity, and eliminate the distance between art and people. They have already freed themselves from the naivety of the wishful thinking that art can intervene in life, but incline instead towards creating their own conversational space, to express their personalities and sense of right and wrong in their works. They

have already adjusted themselves to a position as free creators, a kind of purer mental state and expression.

In the *Translucency* series, the fragmentary but aesthetic structure shows a consummate tension and poetic style, making the viewer experience a certain rich artistic charm when appreciating the work. This kind of emotional culture has already become a kind of way of life for people. Even though traces of the self have already presented themselves in the avant-garde art field which advocates experiments in creation and form.

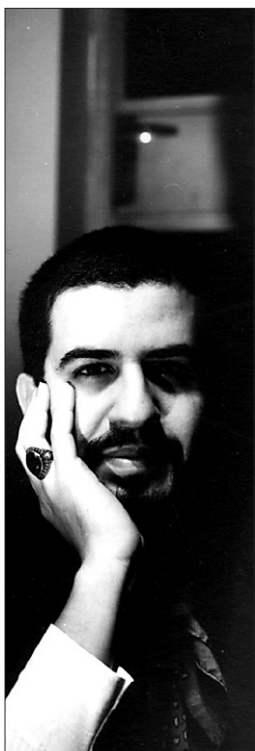
The creations of the Unmask group may be difficult to classify, lacking all the standards and concrete expression that we are used to in our perusal of art. They have no intention of probing man’s uncertain or predestined fate, but in fabricated, playful statements about the self, they sculpt one pleasant looking phenomenon after another. They have provided contemporary artists with an alternative vision of the future and infinite possibility, perhaps even a harbinger of a kind of new art.

– Feng Boyi, curator of Dimensions Art Center



Translucency series, bronze and paint, height 60cm, 2006

**UNMASK
2002-2006**
Dimensions Art Center
July 29 - September 3
www.dimensions-art.com



Hisham Matar

Well there's a surprise –the publishers love it. But what do our corduroy wearing, muesli-munching literary critics make of Matar's first novel?

"A poignant tale of personal and collective betrayal, it is also a timely reminder of the brutal methods that Gaddafi employed to become the Arab world's longest-serving leader. (...) A growing atmosphere of suppressed hysteria underlies the sparse prose, and he is able to conjure up some alluring local color (...) Suleiman is at his least convincing at the novel's rather sugary conclusion. Nevertheless, this is a moving and significant debut."

– Melissa McClements, *Financial Times*

What with all the convulsions rippling through the Middle East at the moment it sounds like a timely read...

"At a time when western leaders have been cosying up to Gaddafi, it is salient to be reminded of the cruelty of his reign. *In the Country of Men* is a powerful political novel and a tender evocation of universal human conflicts – over identity, forgiveness, love. It is due to be published in 13 languages and, despite its short length, took several years to write. It was more than worth the wait."

– Oscar Turner, *The Observer*

So the novel is about a lot more than just politics?

"Ultimately, this is a novel most concerned with relationships between people—friends, spouses, comrades and, particularly, parents and their children. Matar movingly charts the ways in which love endures in situations of great repression, but also shows how repression threatens everything, even love, putting relationships under a strain that can be unendurable. And whatever his subject, Matar writes beautifully."

– Kamila Shamsie, *The Guardian*

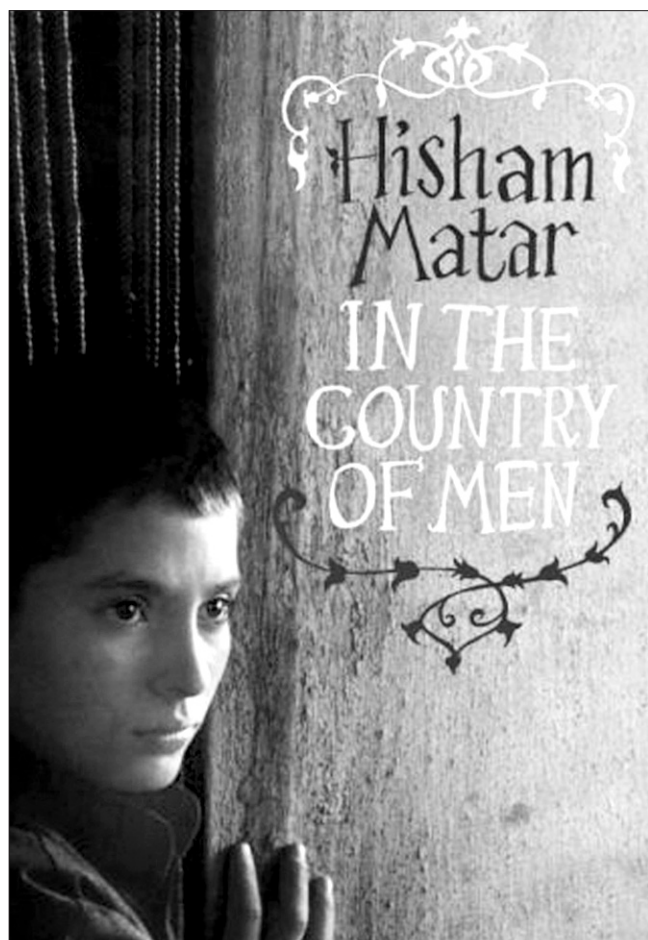
How does Matar deal with the prevailing belief in Gaddafi's Libya that men are

By Hisham Matar
Key themes: politics, persecution, betrayal and love
Synopsis:

"From a breathtaking new talent comes an utterly gripping, incredibly emotional novel told from the point of view of a young boy growing up in a terrifying and bewildering world where his best friend's father disappears and is next seen on state television at a public execution; where a mysterious man sits outside the house all day and asks strange questions; where his mother and uncle burn all his father's books when they know what an avid reader he is and when it seems his father has finally disappeared for good. Soon the whispers and fears, secrets and lies will become so intense that Suleiman can bear them no longer and in his terrified effort to save his family may end up betraying his friends, his parents and ultimately himself"

www.penguin.co.uk

In the Country of Men



superior?

"While the novel's title emphasizes male hegemony, the author subtly undercuts and challenges its assumption of supremacy. With its quivering ambiguities and meticulous delineation of childhood's disastrously misjudged attempts to decode the adult world, Matar's novel shares themes with Ian McEwan's *Atonement* and Michael Frayn's *Spies*, and can hold its head high in such singular company. (...)"

– Trevor Lewis, *Sunday*

Times

High praise indeed... El-Youssef, do you go along with that?

"Matar seems to have set out to write a novel about a lonely child in Tripoli but—perhaps to tempt a publisher—shoehorns in Libyan politics under Gaddafi in a manner that precisely tallies with western stereotyping. (...) Suleiman relates these events with a minimal appreciation of what his father and his comrades were trying to achieve."

His account provides us with no insight into Libyan politics of the period, nor, oddly, does it generate any sympathy for the dissidents."

– Samir El-Youssef, *New Statesman*

Ok, so Matar doesn't delve deep into Libyan politics, but this is a novel after all, not a political science thesis. Surely he tells a good story...?

"What Matar regurgitates (and occasionally chews on) isn't entirely satisfying. There's nothing new, nothing different, and, most importantly, very little that is profound here. It's a sad and occasionally poignant tale, but tragedy alone doesn't make a novel. (This is also a book not helped by the whiff of autobiography, feeling neither really true to life nor like adequately creative invention.) There are some well-written and effective scenes, and some good material here, but the novel as a whole isn't convincing. It is a book that feels carefully yet ineffectively constructed. A worthy failure, but disappointing nonetheless."

– www.complete-review.com

Going by that, Matar would do well to put down his pen and pack in writing altogether. Luckily for him, it's not a view shared by everyone.

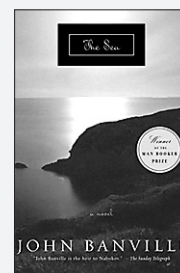
"In a text glowing with emotional truth, he constructs his young narrator's perspective to evoke the nameless and overwhelming feelings of childhood and an adult understanding of the events in which the family is enmeshed. (...) From *The Catcher in the Rye* to *Vernon God Little*, the voice of youth spoke in a cynical whine that articulated only the hormonal conflicts of the over privileged. In Hisham Matar's extraordinary first novel it becomes again what it was in David Copperfield and Jane Eyre, the universal cry of an innocent victim of institutional sadism."

– Celia Brayfield, *The Times*

(By Tom Mackenzie)

Local shelf

The Sea



By John Banville

Picador, 264 pages, 90 yuan
Set in a bleak, old fashioned seaside town on the west coast of Ireland, the novel flits between the distant childhood past and the alcohol soaked present of art historian Max Morden, as he attempts to reconcile the death of his wife and come to terms with a childhood trauma that irrevocably altered his future.

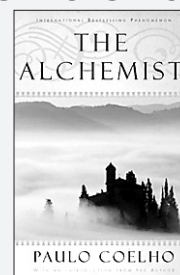
The Sea is a novel that will haunt both new readers and Banville fans alike.

Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

By Jonathan Safran Foer

Penguin 326 pages, 90 yuan
It is not an over-wrought elegy, nor a cynical political manipulation, but in rejecting these neither does it cheapen the tragedy simply because it has become a symbol. The book follows a sensitive prodigy, nine years old and manically absorbed in a plethora of intellectual pursuits, as he embarks on the surreal, mystical and quixotic quest to find the lock that fits a key his father had left for him after he died in the towers.

The Alchemist



By Paulo Coelho

International Edition 167 pages, 70 yuan

It is a classic of the modern age. A simple, wise and enchanting fable. It has inspired readers the world over to listen to their hearts and follow their dreams. In the story we follow the quest of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd, as he journeys to North Africa in the search for missing treasure and spiritual fulfillment.

"It is the simplest things in life that are the most extraordinary: only wise men are able to understand them," a fortune teller explains to Santiago at the beginning of his quest: the philosophy seems to have worked for Paul Coelho himself, now practically presiding over a literary genre all of his own.

Available:
Beijing Bookworm
Where: Building 4, Nan Sanlitun Road, Chaoyang
Tel: 6586 9507

(By Han Manman)

Explore Korean food

By Chu Meng

Koreans are proud of their diet, which is richly endowed with fermented foods, vegetables and grains, soups, tea and liquors. *Kimchi* and *doenjang* soybean paste are the best-known examples of Korean fermented foods, and have recently become highly valued for their disease-preventing effects.

Korea boasts hundreds of vegetable and wild green dishes. Korean foods are usually boiled or blanched, broiled, stir-fried, steamed, or pan-fried with vegetable oil.

Korean families usually eat rice, soup, and three to four side dishes. From each person's left are arranged rice, soup, a spoon, and chopsticks, while stews and side dishes are placed in the center to be shared by all members.

Koreans use a spoon to eat rice, soup and stews and chopsticks for dry side dishes. When the meal is over, the spoon and chopsticks are placed back where they were.

In the old days, talking was not allowed at the dinner table, but today, eating etiquette has become more liberal.



Gaon's spareribs
Photo provided by Gaon

Gaon: A Korean aristocrat for an evening

By Gan Tian

Located in an up-and-coming area where white collars are often seen, Gaon Restaurant is a target for those who possess a powerful consuming ability. It is the first Chinese mainland venture of the Seoul-based chain, which serves high-end classic Korean cuisine. Some say it is not as good as its counterparts in

Korea but is still a good bet compared with most other Korean restaurants in Beijing.

The most distinguishing feature of this restaurant is the spiciness. The basic seasonings – red pepper, green onion, sauce, bean paste, garlic, ginger, sesame, mustard, vinegar, and wine have been combined in various ways to enhance the flavor.

Kimchi, the best-known Korean food, is served here. It is highly seasoned with pepper and garlic and is served with every Korean meal to stimulate appetite. *Kimchi* is usually made in late fall or early winter and contains vitamin C and plenty of fiber.

Pulgoki is generally known as 'Korean barbecue'. It is marinated in a sauce made with garlic,

sugar, sesame oil, and other seasonings and cooked over a fire in front of your table. Another noteworthy meat dish is *Kalbi* – short ribs of beef or pork.

Soups in Gaon are also tasty. Spicy seafood soup is made with chicken, vegetables, bean curd, red pepper powder and most attractive, ginseng, making it comparatively expensive.

Gaon

Where: 5/F, East tower, Twin Towers, B-12, Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang

Open:

Mon-Fri: 11am-2:30pm,
5:30pm-10pm

Weekends: All day

Cost: 100-200 yuan per person

Tel: 5120 8899 / 5828 7099

Relax with traditional Korean cuisine

By Huang Daohen

Interested in learning more about the new 'haute cuisine' that is traditional Korean food? Hanshouyuan Korean Restaurant, located in Ka Wah Century Buildings, is a great place to start.

The difference is more in the ingredients than the presentation, which make up a variety of highly acclaimed traditional Korean dishes ranging

from authentic haute cuisine to table-side Korean style barbecue. In order to achieve the most authentic and fashionable Korean cuisine, Lee Young Kim, the head chef (once trained by the head chef of Korea's five-star Marriott Hotel, Jung Moon Hwan) was invited to run the kitchen. The food served to customers is not overly spicy and does not use a great deal



of red pepper paste. Most of the ingredients, including the meats, spices, and some vegetables, are shipped in directly from Korea.

Hanshouyuan also provides several smaller private rooms featuring the traditional shoeless floor seating arrangement.

Hanshouyuan's super beef eye

Photo provided by Hanshouyuan

Hanshouyuan

Where: Room 110, Ka Wah Century Buildings, 18 Jianguomen Main Street, Chaoyang

Open: Mon-Sun:

11am-midnight,

Tel: 6515 5196, 6515 6805

Cost: 60 yuan per person as a minimum

Suboksung: Special-grade Korean restaurant

By He Jianwei

Suboksung, located in a high-quality office block at Zhongliang Plaza, is the only special-grade restaurant dealing with Korean food. Opened in 1997, it is decorated with traditional Korean masks on the wall and provides exquisite traditional Korean food.

Broiled fresh steak and homemade beef and noodle hot

pot are the two dishes recommended by Cai Xiangshu, the manager. The steak (95 yuan per 150 grams) is made from tenderloin and broiled with fresh mushrooms, and served with homemade sauce or radish and mustard.

Homemade beef and noodle hot pot (70 yuan) is a traditional Korean dish and certainly worth

a try. The soup for the hot pot is from Incheon. The noodles are pressed for three or even four hours to ensure they can be boiled for a long time. When the soup is boiling, noodles should be put first into the hot pot, then slices of beef, mushrooms and other vegetables. If you like spicy food, pepper and chili powder are available.

Slices of raw beef are a dish unique to Suboksung. The chef slices the beef as thin as possible and arranges them on a piece of ice. Only mustard sauce accompanies this dish and the price is 80 yuan per 200 grams.

Besides Korean food, it also provides the Korean traditional wine Baekwha Soobok known as 'the eastern nectar'.

Suboksung Zhongliang

Where: Underground 1/F, Unit A, Zhongliang Square, 8, Jianguomen Da Jie, Dongcheng

Open: Daily:

11am-2:30pm,
5:30pm-9:30pm

Cost: 80-150 yuan per person

Tel: 6526 0588

Bean there, done that

By Gan Tian

Beichang Bean Curd is a very special Korean restaurant. As its name suggests, many of its famous dishes are made from bean curd, but you can still sample different flavors here.

A typical Beichang Bean Curd meal consists of steamed or stir-fried vegetables, thin-sliced meats, grilled fish and bean-paste soup.

There are also many interesting features at this restaurant.

For example, free eggs are provided for every customer, purple rice is mixed into the main dish, and almost every course is made in a stone cooking pot.

The Beichang Bean Curd

brand has all kinds of eating styles, ranging from small restaurants to high-priced, formal restaurants with full-course meals. According to some guests, this Jianguomen chain is the best.

Beichang Bean Curd

Where: No.12, Jianguomenwai Dajie, Chaoyang

Open: 10am-10pm

Cost: 100 yuan per person

Tel: 6568 2550 / 6568 2838

Free membership card

Spend over 30 yuan at Ming Gu Wu Hot Pot Restaurant (101 Fuxingmennei Dajie, Xicheng) and get a free membership card until August 17. You can enjoy around 10% off using the card. For details, call 6602 6725.



60 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at any Quan Jin Cheng Korean grill restaurant around Beijing and get a 60 yuan voucher until August 15. Thirty yuan can be used for meals and the rest for bathing. For details, call 8201 5678.



50% off

Play golf at Xing Kong Golf Garden (Youwaidajie, Nansanhuan, Fengtai) from 7am-3pm and enjoy 50% off. Only 30 yuan for two hours playing time. For details, call 6752 5938.



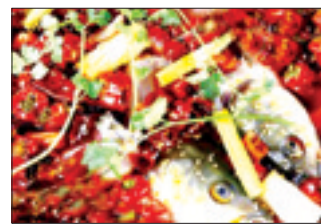
40% off

Buy at Hao Shi Lai bakery (Gongti Nanlu, Chaoyang) from 5pm-10pm and enjoy 40% off all bread and cakes. For details, call 6502 5258.



32% off

Eat at Xiang Shui Zhi Zhu restaurant (22 Shouti Nanlu, Haidian) and enjoy 32% off all dishes except drinks and seafood. The restaurant offers Hunan cuisine and seafood. For details, call 5177 6688.



200 yuan voucher

Spend over 200 yuan at the Pacific Shopping Mall (133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng) and get a 60-200 yuan voucher until August 31. For details, call 6612 6888.



20 yuan voucher

Spend over 100 yuan at He Qian Li Korean grill restaurant (Xiandaicheng, Dawangqiao, Chaoyang) and get a 20 yuan voucher until September 30. Fifteen yuan for dinner and 5 yuan for lunch. For details, call 8589 3609.



10% off

Spend over 100 yuan at Ma La Fang Cheng Shi (15 Xiuyuan, Huizhong Beilu, Chaoyang) and enjoy 10% off the total bill and a free dish of grilled shrimp. Almost all the dishes are hot and spicy. For details, call 6498 2798.



30% Off

Lee Brand clothes are 30% off at Modern Plaza (Dangdai Shangcheng, 40 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian) until August 31. For details, call 6257 6688



20% off

Shou Wang Tong Nian children's studio (9 Pufanglu, Fengtai district) is holding a special promotion period. Take a book of pictures and enjoy 20% off until August 31. For details, call 5807 0141.



30% off

Cozzi brand clothes are 30% off at Chen Xi Shopping Center (1 Dong Changanjie, Dongcheng) until August 31. For details, call 8518 4488.



(By Terence Lu)

Experience

a special touch of Asian Hospitality

Appointed Home for Officials,
11th Annual IAAF World Junior Championships
August, 2006



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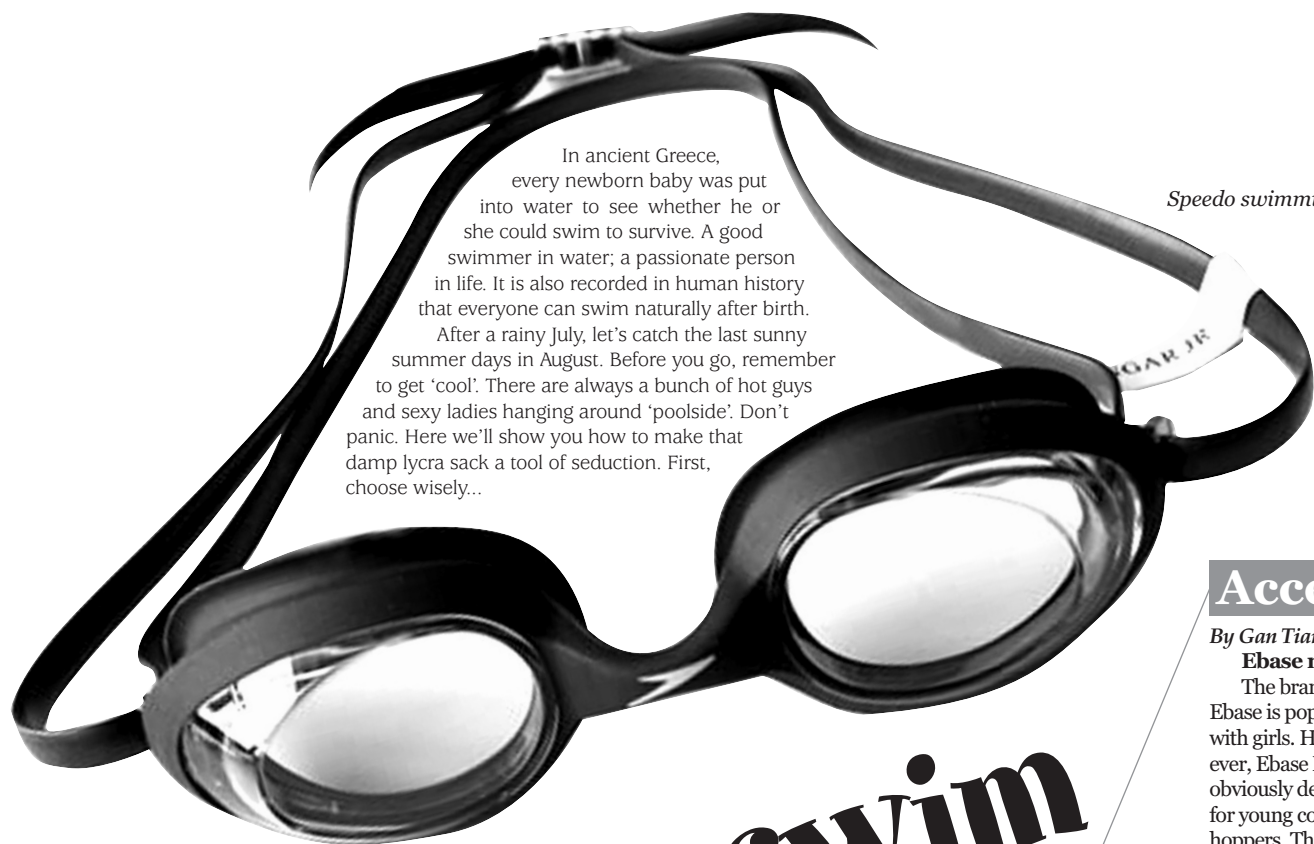
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Speedo swimming goggles

In ancient Greece, every newborn baby was put into water to see whether he or she could swim to survive. A good swimmer in water; a passionate person in life. It is also recorded in human history that everyone can swim naturally after birth. After a rainy July, let's catch the last sunny summer days in August. Before you go, remember to get 'cool'. There are always a bunch of hot guys and sexy ladies hanging around 'poolsides'. Don't panic. Here we'll show you how to make that damp lycra sack a tool of seduction. First, choose wisely...

Born to swim



Speedo's anti-fog drops

Headwear

By He Jianwei
Swim cap

The sports brand Spurt has launched a series of printed airtight swim caps. First, it's made of silica gel, so it's soft and springy. Second, the handsome designs will make you the pool hotty.

Price: 49 yuan

Available: in the Spurt section in main department stores

Swimming goggles

Speedo's swimming goggles are high quality waterproof, anti-fog and anti-ultraviolet rays. Speedo swimming goggles are engineered to perform in harmony with the human body through the bonding of structure and flexibility. If you are nearsighted, corrective swimming glasses are also available from Speedo.

Price: 180 yuan

Available: in the Speedo section in shopping malls

Anti-fog drops

Speedo's anti-fog drops clear up fogged swimming goggles with one quick spray. Produced in Britain, one pack lasts 2 or 3 years.

Price: 70 yuan

Available: in the Speedo section in shopping malls



Your color in the water

By Huang Daohen
2008 Olympic bikini



The Sweet Bikini designed for the 2008 Olympics is an adorable way to bring a touch of the country to the seaside. The halter-top has red gingham ruffled layers and is adorned with a

white belt across the center. The top is secured with gingham-patterned ties at the neck and back. The bottoms feature a novel pattern of red and white with the symbol of the Beijing 2008 Olympics right of the waist. The bottoms have a scoop front with full coverage.

Fabric Content: 80% nylon 20% spandex

Color: red / white

Price: 156 yuan

Available: in all official Olympic stores.



Swimming trunks

Light and smooth, these shorts are made of a tough, waterproof nylon, and sewn with chafe-free

seams so you can wear them in the water all day long. For full-immersion sports like swimming or bodysurfing, the clean lines help to minimize drag. They pack down to

nothing and could be carried conveniently.

Price: 98 yuan

Available: Looksee chain store, 2 floor, Sunshine Square, Yayun Village, Chaoyang.

Swimming pool lounge chair

Strong enough to comfortably support over 250 pounds, the lounge is made from high-quality forever-buoyant foam. A specially designed soft vinyl coating makes this unsinkable float comfortable and crack resistant. Available in adult and baby sizes, and in blue and yellow.

Price: 48 yuan

Available: underground B1 floor, Zhongyou Department Store, Xidan.

Aqua belt

This comfortable, form-fitting buoyancy belt suspends you comfortably in the water at shoulder-level, enabling proper flotation and positioning during water exercise. The belt consists of soft and closed-cell foam with a connecting webbed belt that wraps around the body. The customized shape conforms to the body and provides buoyancy without the tendency to tilt the user. The Aqua Belt comes in one size to fit the majority of the adult population.

Price: 58 yuan

Available: underground B1 floor, Zhongyou Department Store, Xidan.



Accessories

By Gan Tian

Ebase men's swimming bag

The brand Ebase is popular with girls. However, Ebase Men is obviously designed for young cool hip-hopsters. The dark black hard cloth makes it a typical gothic swimming bag, but the light green and red strips bring more passion to the design. What's more, it is extremely big: you can put all your things in it - swimming suit, bath towel, keys, mobile phone, I-pod, and cosmetics. Even if you don't own all those things, everyone will think you do because your bag's so cool. Clever.

Price: 299 yuan

Available: Ebase Men Store, 6th Floor of Grand Pacific Shopping Mall, 133 Xidan Beidajie, Xicheng

Coca Cola bath towel



Brand your summer, even though you're not getting paid for it! The towel is red and says Coca Cola on it. Potentially, it could remind you to stock up on excessively sugared, diuretic soft drinks while you're baking in the sun. What more do you want?

Price: 89 yuan for 130x60cm

Available: Huawei Shopping Center

Powerpuff Girls bath towel



Remember Powerpuff Girls? This bath towel is especially designed for youngsters. However it is a little bit short. If you're more 'power' than 'puff' these days, perhaps you'll want a larger one.

Price: 69 yuan for 120x50cm

Available: Huawei Shopping Center

Thailand beach slippers

There is no winter in Thailand.

Well, actually there is, but it doesn't feel like it. The Thai people love to wear beach slippers. The idea of combining an asymmetric style and bright colors is perfectly shown in these flip flops.

Price: 48 yuan per pair

Available: <http://sappar>
oj.cn.alibaba.com/ Photos by Gan Tian



Fill that summer swimsuit with natural curves

By Gareth George

Women today are changing their size and shape. While dozens of men may be nodding in agreement at this, thinking back to their beloved's Bruce Banner-esque apoplexy the last time Mr Jusf popping out for a half blundered home three sheets to the wind, this time it seems men aren't actually to blame. Rather, women are becoming shaped like men. Less hourglass, more sausage. Marilyn Monroe was famously a size 16 – bigger than the average young woman today, but she had a 22 inch waist (19 when poured into her corset.) And that's the key: according to famous anthropologist Desmond Morris, on a primeval level, men see waist ratio as key to sexual suitability. The 'perfect ratio' of waist to hips is 7:10 – signifying a child bearing pelvis.

Jean Bougourd, senior research fellow at London College of Fashion adds that "[In the last 50 years] while we are bigger overall, the waist has grown more in proportion. Waist-hip ratio has gone from 7:10 to more than 8:10. Modern women are much straighter."

While these figures may refer to the UK, similar results were shown in Japan – famous for their healthy diet – as early as 2002. If China is heading down the same road, follow these tips to make sure you stay sexy and healthy looking.

1. Professors at Japan's athletics university have blamed a lack of muscle tone for the change in shape. "The back and abdominal muscles are shaped like a belt," they say, "They're like a corset that supports the abdomen, internal organs and adipose tissues. When these muscles weaken, women lose their curves." Try Pilates, yoga or tai chi to maintain the tone in your stabilizing muscles. Running and swimming can help too. Don't simply starve yourself or your muscles will waste – you might look thin in clothes, but your skin will hang like an old woman's.

2. Beware unhealthy role models. In America, 25 years ago the average model weighed eight percent less than the average women. Today, the model weighs 23 percent less. As women have grown heavier, the magazine ideal has grown smaller. Remember, sexy on the screen is not the same as sexy in real life. Or healthy.

3. Emma Stiles, a nutritional scientist at the University of Westminster, makes the point that, "The waist-hip ratio has changed ... because of a change in the macronutrients in our diet. Our intake of carbohydrates and sugars has grown rapidly, which increases insulin production. This in turn aids fat-cell deposits on the torso rather than anywhere else on the body." In other words, changes in our diet are affecting our waistlines – quality, rather than pure quantity. And our new sedentary, laptop facilitated lifestyles aren't helping either (no, the Chairman and his comrades didn't plan the revolution over frappuccinos and excel spreadsheets in Sculpting in Time.) Eat a healthy, balanced diet and make time for exercise.

4. Researchers at Yale University have discovered evidence that tummy fat develops when a person is under long-term stress, because it releases a hormone called cortisol. Stress decreases oestrogen, and lower levels of female hormones lead to fat deposits taking hold on the waist line. How to combat this? Quit your job and become a dog walker. Or if that isn't possible, make sure you take time out to relax wherever you can.

Liposuction, a virtual way to sculpt your body

Dr Fiona Chang from Bioscor International Clinic for Cosmetic Medicines:

Liposuction or Suction Assisted Lipectomy is a procedure that can help sculpt the body by removing unwanted fat from specific areas, including the abdomen, hips, buttocks, thighs, knees, upper arms, chin, cheeks and neck.

Although liposuction is not a substitute for dieting and exercise, it can remove stubborn areas of fat that don't respond to traditional weight-loss methods. It can flatten the abdomen, remove fat from the under-arms, eliminate a double chin and contour the face or neck. You may notice that clothes fit more comfortably and you feel more confident about your new, slimmer appearance.

For individuals that are interested in obtaining liposuction as a way to sculpt your bodies, you may be interested in undergoing Laserlipolysis or laser-assisted liposuction.

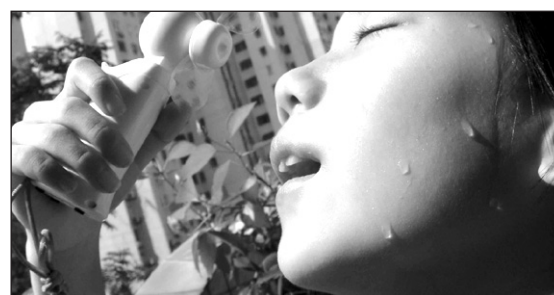
The benefit of incorporating laser technology in standard liposuction surgical techniques is that it increases the safety standards of the procedure and decreases the amount of recovery time that the patient needs following the liposuction surgery.

Laserlipolysis is safe, efficient, predictable and easy to recover from. Nevertheless, it should not be forgotten that is still a kind of surgery and must be performed meeting all requisites of a good medical practice. At the clinic, your surgeon will evaluate your adipose deposits, the quality of your skin and your cellulite levels. In some cases it is advisable to combine several procedures for an optimal result.

Bioscor Beijing Clinic

Where: Room 1008, E-Tower No.12 Guanghai Lu, Chaoyang
Free Consultation in Chinese, English and Japanese
Tel: 6503 5707 / 5706
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(By Qiu Jiaoning)



Emergency first aid for heatstroke

Heatstroke occurs when the body fails to regulate its own temperature and body temperature continues to rise. Even with immediate treatment, it can be life-threatening or result in serious, long-term complications. After calling emergency medical services, follow these first aid steps.

Move the person into a cool place, out of direct sunlight.

Remove the person's unnecessary clothing, and place them on their side to expose as much skin surface to the air as possible.

Cool the person's entire body by sponging or spraying cool – not cold – water, and fan the person to lower the body temperature. Watch for signs of rapidly

progressing heatstroke.

Apply ice packs to the groin, neck, and armpits, where large blood vessels lie close to the skin surface. Do not immerse the person in an ice bath.

Do not give aspirin or acetaminophen to reduce a high body temperature that can occur with heatstroke. These medications may cause problems because of the body's response to heat-stroke.

If the person is awake and alert enough to swallow, give the person fluids within the first two hours for hydration. However, a person with heatstroke may have an altered mental status and may not be able to safely drink fluids without help.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Top tips to fight headache pain



When headaches take hold, resistance, as evil rulers say, is futile – at least, for all but the most heroic among us. But before a headache springs full blown, you may be able to avoid or turn down the pain by taking evasive action. Experimenting with these suggestions may help you avoid getting a headache, or better manage one if it does arrive.

No. 1: Keep a headache diary. Writing down the details of your headaches can help you and your doctor identify your headache triggers.

No. 2: Watch what you eat. Food often gets the blame for triggering migraine headaches. It won't hurt to experiment by dropping a couple of the most frequent trouble-makers to see if it makes a difference. Start with 'the big three': red wine; processed meats and other foods that contain sodium nitrite; and foods that contain the seasoning monosodium glutamate.

No. 3: Get enough magnesium. Magnesium relaxes blood vessels and reduces the likelihood that migraine-inducing electric signals in the brain will be generated, both of which can cut your chances of getting a headache. For example, replace white-flour breads and pastas

with whole-wheat versions. Other magnesium-rich foods include leafy green vegetables and nuts.

No. 4: Eat regular meals. Make sure you eat a healthy diet and don't skip meals. If you tend to wake up with morning headaches, doctors suggests eating a piece of fruit just before you go to bed to see if that helps stave off the early morning pain.

No. 5: Be careful with caffeine, alcohol and tobacco. For some sufferers, caffeine's a major culprit. Tobacco and second-hand smoke, too.

No. 6: Stick to a sleep schedule. Keeping regular hours – even on the week-ends – may help you avoid pain.

No. 7: Exercise regularly. The idea is to improve the production of endorphins, the brain's natural pain-killers. A minimum of 20 minutes to a half-hour of concentrated aerobic exercise, such as walking at a brisk pace, at least three times a week, should suffice.

No. 8: Manage stress. You can try all kinds of techniques, from massage to yoga to biofeedback. The important thing is to find something you can do fairly quickly and easily. Read a book, go for a walk, even go shopping if that works for you.

No. 9: Try acupressure. Acupressure, a form of traditional Chinese medicine that's based on the same ideas as acupuncture, involves putting gentle pressure on different points of your body and is a technique you can do yourself.

(By Qiu Jiaoning)

Underwater Great Wall



The dragon dips its head.

Photos by David Drakeford

By David Drakeford

Everyone wants their own Great Wall experience – it is essential for travelers and Chinese alike and should ideally have a unique feature. Wild Wall, Wall with toboggan ride, Wall meets sea or perhaps even underwater Wall not mentioned in major guidebooks. Balmy Hebei province surrounds our fair city and beckons with just such a Wall.

The scenery around Panjikou reservoir is almost Mediterranean: shady groves of chestnut trees, brightly colored flowers and groups of tanned locals sitting watching the world go slowly by. The difference however is the steep hills which give the two passes of Panjikou and Xifengkou their tactical significance.

Connected by the Great Wall they formed an impenetrable barrier against enemies as recently as this century. Dadao Yuan is a monument to the repelling of Japanese invaders in 1933 by the rather primitive method of chopping them to death by broadsword (*dadao*). Although rather bland in character this is an excellent starting place for its cheap rooms and helpful guides.

Early on the first morning my guide belied her age by hacking a path through the undergrowth, without broadsword, to show me some Ming Dynasty

watchtowers indisputably off the beaten path. The route was tough going but the refreshment – a family meal including local fish from the reservoir and *lvse shipin* vegetables (grown without pesticides) was more of a strain to the belt.

The reservoir itself, built in the 1970s, submerged a section of the Great Wall forming a

ries and mushrooms.

Nearby Qingshanguan has an eye on the well-healed tourist. A reconstructed village abutting another section of crumbling Great Wall is a lot nicer than you might imagine. It eschews tackiness and commercialism for a quiet and pretty area full of flowers and shady spots. The sheer smallness of the place bodes well



Floating restaurant

sight described as a dragon dipping its head into the lake to drink. A boat ride out is essential to see this unique part of the wall. An eagle circled above Jiangwen village guiding us towards a tiny hamlet reconstructed for a film *Hands Up!* directed by Jiang Wen. You can stay at one of the dozen or so houses here but the only inhabitants during my visit were old women proffering wild raspber-

ries and mushrooms.

Worthy of a stroll are the small cottages and farmlands of the local residents. The winding road between Tieguanmen (a likely arrival point) and Dadaoguan, for example would probably take an hour on foot but provide a delightful distraction with all forms of garrulous human activity taking place by the roadside.

Practicalities

A direct route from Beijing is not available but the journey is serviced by regular busses manned by helpful conductors. Sihui chengtu qichezhan (a long distance bus station next to Sihui subway stop) has busses every 20 minutes to Zunhua, two and a half hours away. From here you can easily bus to Santunying and then to Tiemenguan (mentioned above) adding, realistically, two and a half to three hours. A taxi from Zunhua could be bargained to around 150 yuan and save you a lot of time.

Accommodation

Qingshanguan has a hotel for 360 yuan a night but otherwise you will be hard pushed to spend more than a few kuai for a simple room. For convenience in returning to Beijing I stayed in an air-conditioned room at Shangying for 30 yuan.

Getting around

As is often the case a bicycle would be ideal but not so easy to find here. The most popular means of transport is by motorbike. A lone traveler can easily hitch a lift on the back of a passing bike, for free if the driver is going that way and fancies the idea of turning up with a foreigner in toe, otherwise pay a small fee – around half of what they initially suggest.

Beijing Curios

Little doctor fish to clean your skin



Photo provided by Beijing Longxi Hotspring Resort

By Jackie Zhang

Beijingers can now enjoy a luxurious therapy spa originally from Turkey. Relax in hot springs with 'numeriys' – small doctor fish – swimming around you, kissing your skin and taking your dead cells away.

The doctor fish, also known as nibble fish, or Kangal fish have been imported. They are around five centimeters long and live in hot springs at a temperature between 35 and 40 degrees centigrade.

When you enter the pool, the fish will gather around. They won't hurt you, but act as beauticians, 'kissing' your body and eating the skin cuticles and bacteria.

The fish therapy spa is good for those with skin diseases. The warm spring water softens the patients' skin. Then, the fish eat the flakes. Meanwhile, the secretion coming out from the fish's mouth will sterilize and disinfect your body. The 'kiss' also stimulates the epidermis nerve.

"We imported the fish from Turkey. They cannot live in strong sunshine. We put them in the hot spring pools with little dark," said Mao Wenjuan, the public relations manager of the resort.

Where: Beijing Longxi Hotspring Resort, No. 8, Shunjing Road, Panggezhuang, Daxing

Cost: 189 yuan per person

Tel: 8929 2222



At Qingshanguan get off the beaten path and into a traditional rural dwelling. Sweet!



Tomb of Aga Khan

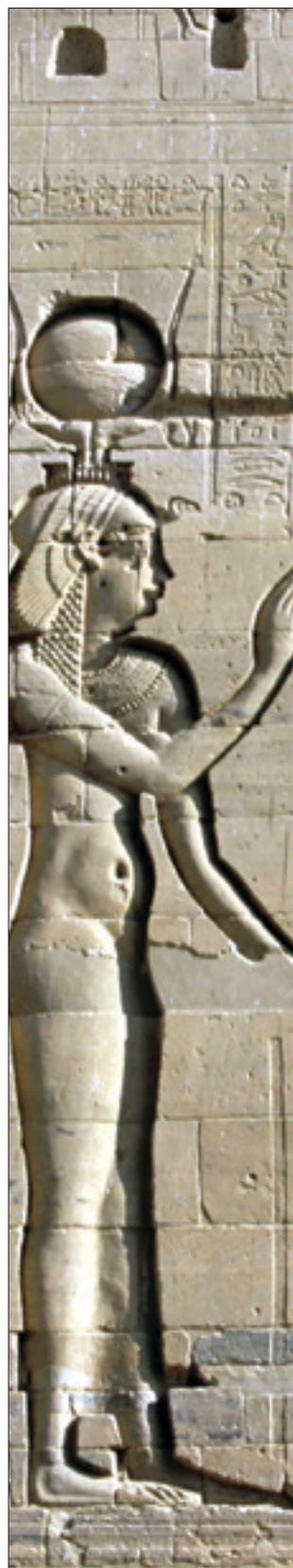
Aswan: the sunniest city on the bank of the Nile



Local musician, Aswan

Egypt, with its pyramids, folk art, and religions, is famous for its history and culture around the world. The diplomatic relationship between Egypt and China has connected the two historic countries for 50 years.

With more than one third of the world's historic sites, Egypt has abundant tourism resources. The city of Aswan, located at the south of the country, is the sunniest city and ancient frontier town with a distinctively African atmosphere.



The Philae Temple on the Nile, Aswan



A Nubian village on Elephantine Island in the middle of the Nile, Aswan

CFP Photos

Elephantine Island

It is the largest island in the area, and one of the most ancient sites in Egypt, with artifacts dating to predynastic periods (5500 – 3100 BC).

There are large boulders in the river near the island which resemble bathing elephants, particularly from afar, and this too has been suggested as a reason for the island's name.

Elephantine Island is a beautiful place to visit, with wonderful gardens and some truly significant artifacts. It is also a good place to spend some leisure time, wondering among the Nubian villages where the people are friendly and the houses colorful. The houses often have paintings or are carved with a crocodile at the bottom, say, or a fish in the middle and a man on top. A woman's hand made of brass might make a door knocker between the fish and man. Others will have a sacred black cube of Mecca.

Temple of Khnum

The temple, which is dedicated to the deity Khnum, believed to have created mankind from a potter's wheel, is mostly in ruins. It was built by Queen Hatshepsut of the 18th dynasty. A number of obelisks and monuments have been reconstructed, and there are column bases from a restoration which occurred in the early 19th dynasty.

In addition there is a gateway with carvings of Alexander IV of Macedon worshipping Khnum, and a number of Roman paving stones.

Aswan profile

The city, lying at the east bank of the Nile, is small enough for you to walk around, a great way to view the mighty river. The pace of life here is slow and relaxing. Days can be spent strolling up and down the broad cornice road, watching the sailboats etch the sky with their tall masts or sitting in floating restaurants listening to Nubian music and eating fresh caught fish.

In Aswan, the Nile is at its most beautiful, flowing through amber desert and granite rocks, round emerald islands covered in palm groves and tropical plants.

History

The Ancient Egyptians called it Swen, and considered it to be not only the end of the world, but also the sacred source of the Nile and granite from which they built most of their temples.

For centuries, Aswan was the gateway to Africa and the lands of Nubia. In the time of the Ptolemies and ancient Egyptians, the present Elephantine Island of Aswan was the place most of the ivory and gold trading would take place. Due to its strategic location, Aswan was chosen as the first capital of Upper Egypt, and the Ptolemies used it as a base to enter Nubia, Sudan and Central Africa.

Throughout history, from Pharaonic to Islamic, governments have been sending troops to Aswan in order to protect Egypt from any southern invasions.

Get to Aswan:

Aswan is easily accessible. Get to Cairo first by air. Then, go to Aswan from Cairo by air, which will take you 90 minutes. Or you can travel from Cairo to Aswan by train, which will take you about 10 hours.

(By Zhang Nan)

Kitchner's Island

Kitchner's Island, located at the north-west of the Elephantine Island, is a botanical garden, filled with exotic plants and trees imported from all over the world. It is a perfect place to spend a lazy afternoon in the shade.

The island was given to Lord Kitchner, the English war hero, for his campaigns in the Sudan, and he moved there and created his garden, importing plants and trees from all over the world. Today, the Egyptian government operates this popular tourist destination.

Transportation on water:

Feluccas are typical Egyptian sailing boats. If you have time and like to visit more places, you can hire a felucca for a few hours or even a few days. It's fun and relaxing and the price is not fixed. You can just bargain with the felucca owners. If you just want to go to Elephantine, Kitchner Island or the west bank you can take the ferry.

There are feluccas sitting around at many places just waiting for tourists to come along, so you should have no trouble finding one.

Other touring sites (west bank)

The tombs of the nobles

The northern hills of the west bank are filled with the rock-hewn tombs of princes from the Old Kingdom to the Roman period. The 6th dynasty tombs, some of which form linked family complexes, contain important biographical texts. Inside, the tombs are decorated with vivid wall paintings showing scenes of everyday life, hieroglyphic biographies and inscriptions telling of the noblemen's journeys into Africa. The 12th dynasty tombs of Sarenput I and Sarenput II have the finest art, and it is said that some work in the number 31 tomb rivals that of Memphis.

Monastery of St. Simeon

Those on a fairly standard tour of Egypt that includes the Aswan area will most likely visit St. Simeon, the monastery otherwise known as Anba Hatre. It is very likely that this will also include their one substan-

tial camel ride (about 15 minutes), which is how these ruins, located some one thousand two hundred meters from the west bank oppose the southern tip of the Elephantine Island, are usually accessed.

This monastery is one of the most beautiful Coptic Monastery remains. Left unused for eight centuries, the monastery is well preserved. Surrounded by 10-meter high walls, the complex looks like a castle in the desert, built in two levels. You can still see the remains of a large basilica with colorful frescoes, further the cells for the monks, kitchen, bakery, stores, and stables. *Transportation at the west bank of the Nile:*

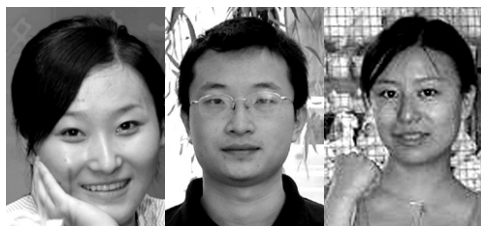
In case you like to visit the west bank of the Nile, camel drivers are waiting at the boat landing for customers. If you don't want to walk, the camels can bring you uphill to the Monastery of St. Simeon.



Elephantine Island



A Nubian village on Sehel Island in the middle of the Nile, Aswan



By Han Manman

"Motorola's interns are chosen from thousands of applicants. Their work is no different from that of our regular staff.

When selecting a suitable intern, besides the general requirements that any other foreign company has, Motorola has two major criteria. The first is that he or she is honest and the second is team spirit and the ability to learn. Motorola is a big family, you must learn to work well with others and also to learn from your work and workmates.

What we focus on during the intern interviews is the 'details', not the generalities. When you discuss your previous work experience or projects, we want you to give us as much detail as possible, based on which our experienced interviewer will judge if what you say is true or not. Even if you did partake in the project, your answer will show how much you have been involved in it."

—**Helena Hao, University Relationship Program Manager, MU Senior Marketing Specialist**

Motorola: honesty is the key for interns



Fiona: as an intern at Motorola China Research and Development Institute for almost a year, she obtained a degree in Economics from the University of International Business and Economics this year and will become a postgraduate in September.

My interview was held in a big empty office with only the recruiter and me. Since our department has high demands on English, my interview was all done in English. I remember the recruiter asked me a very easy question, "What were your contributions at school?" I was too nervous at the interview to understand what the sentence meant. I thought I must have failed the interview at that time but in fact I did get the internship. Months later, I heard from my colleague that the recruiter had made a full evaluation on me.

The first day I came to the company, I didn't know what I should do. My mentor asked me

to look through the company website to check if there was something that could be improved. I looked at every word on the page to see if there were any spelling mistakes and I actually found some! I wrote down all the mistakes I found in a notebook and gave it to my mentor. She said that I had a good attitude.

There were some clear milestones I experienced during my internship. At the beginning, my boss just asked me to book meeting rooms or office equipment. Two months later, I received a long email from her. The email was all about a business discussion among a lot of our employees. My boss asked me to arrange a meeting for all of them. I also needed to find a right time and right venue for this big meeting. I felt excited that I could make decisions. The bigger milestone was the Motorola China Technology Symposium, a very big yearly event for our company. Nearly 500 people joined the event, including

government officials and the president of Motorola China. My boss really trusted me with the overall organization of this event. I needed to manage our public relations firm, select and set up the venue and invite attendees from both Motorola and our partners. I had the right to make decisions. I also worked with my colleagues to sign a contract for hundreds of thousands of yuan with our supplier. I felt I was totally trusted by the company and also felt that I had great responsibilities on my shoulders. The symposium was approaching at the time I had to hand in my graduate paper and deal with graduation issues. For nearly a half month, I slept only four to five hours a day.

My advice for college students is really based on my own experience. Don't judge things at face value or come to a conclusion immediately when you haven't checked it. Sometimes things don't turn out as you expect.

Jeff: works for Motorola Global Software Center, has a master's degree in Computing from the Beijing Institute of Technology. He received the offer this March after an internship from July 2004.

For those who study computing or engineering, you do not need to prepare a lot for your interview. You just need to give the interviewer an honest account of what kind of projects or activities you have done on campus, but you do need to discuss the details. A lot of our computing and engineering students are not good at expressing themselves and giving details when describing things.

I was quickly involved in our team after I joined the company. Our project team had

five members. I remember once our project had come across some trouble but we needed to release the product to the customers on that day. All five members worked until 2 am the next day. On that day I realized that I was not a student anymore; I could not leave things to be done the next day.

I knew there were a lot of outstanding people around me. I was just a student without any experience so I always kept silent at meetings during the first few months. I thought regular employees' work would necessarily be better than mine. At first my team members thought that I was shy. One day, my project leader talked with me personally, he asked me why I never stated my opinions and just agreed with other people's views.

After that, he gave me lots of opportunities to do representations or give my opinion during discussions. I felt he pushed me into the spotlight and made me adapt to such a role. I was afraid of this in the beginning but soon felt comfortable about it and even began to feel that I had a good ability to communicate with others and felt pleased with myself for that.

Some computing and engineering students, especially the top students, have a competitive and slightly egotistical attitude. If someone is good at computer programming, he may think he can do everything by himself. Working with a team can increase your potential and is more like playing basketball—the whole team tries their best to achieve the same goal.



Scarlet: as an intern at Human Resources at Motorola China. She will get a master's degree in management next year. She began her internship in March 2004.

I am studying management which, combined with my work experience, can help me grow quickly. Having much intern experience in state-owned enterprises, I really hope to experience the difference between state-owned enterprises and foreign companies.

Three years ago, I applied to be an intern at Motorola's Department of Finance but failed due to inadequate preparation. The company told me that they had a vacancy in the audit department, so I prepared a lot on auditing stuff without really asking about the requirements of that position. During the interview, I realized that what the audit department needed

was a team assistant. As a result, I missed the target completely.

A year later, when I heard that the Department of Human Resources needed some interns, I applied again. The interview impressed me deeply. The recruiter told me before the interview that we would have half of the interview in English. The interview was going smoothly until she suddenly asked me a question in English, "Which do you prefer - to be a small fish in a big pond or a big fish in a small pond?" She changed from Chinese to English so quickly. I hadn't thought that the interviewer would test my English this way and it caught me on the hop. I thought about it for a few seconds and answered: "The proper fish in the proper pond." The interviewer laughed when she heard that. This question really tested

my reactions as well as English ability. Because work in human resources requires communicating with different people, you need to react in different ways.

I have worked in the company for over two years now, taking three different intern positions. I worked in the Recruitment team for eight months, and then came to the Motorola Asia Pacific Strategy Department and now I am working as an assistant to our Human Resources director. Each time, when my boss asked me if I wanted to experience different jobs in different departments, I felt they were willing to hear my opinions and saw me as a worker and learner not just an errand girl. Working in the Department for Human Resources also taught me to keep confidential information and not even tell my best friend or parents.

Helena Hao comments on Fiona: Fiona has very strong communication skills, which can be seen easily from the Motorola technology symposium. It was a really big event that presents Motorola's technology and image to the public. She was very professional in her work and no one knew that she was an intern.

Fiona is also very independent and her mentor trusted her very much. I regularly heard her mentor say, "Ask Fiona to do it." I also trusted her a lot. When her boss was not in the office, I would contact Fiona because I knew she could do it well.

Comments on Scarlet:

Scarlet has something about her that is admirable. She worked in Human Resources for a long time, but what she learned from eight hours a day is much more than what a regular worker would learn. She has a very broad outlook and would try to learn new things if it was related to her work. I always heard her say "Could I join your meeting?" or "May I participate in your project?" In Motorola, everyone has his or her own responsibility. We hope everyone can do more if they have the ability to do their own work well. For those who have learned new things for themselves and the company, we can observe and assess your real ability. I'm sure that Scarlet will do more when she goes back to her college. She has an integral picture of the company as well as being familiar with her related areas. That is why we are willing to provide her more opportunities to learn new things.

Comments on Jeff: There are lots of interns at Jeff's department. He was ranked top of the list to transfer into regular employment. When his boss introduced him to me, he said that Jeff is the one who always does more than expected. When he finishes his own project work, he always asks his team members if they need help. He also improves the work he has done, even if very troublesome, if he finds there is a better solution.

Every year, we carry out the campus promotion and I am always willing to invite someone like Jeff to come with me because what they say can be good reference for students. I remember, in a campus promotion, lots of students asked Jeff why Motorola chose him. Jeff answered, "You need to demand more out of yourself, then you will make more progress and stand out from the crowd."



Follow Beijing Today

This column is open to those who want to improve their English but lack foreign specialized help. We will review the English articles you send to Shirley_chen@ynet.com. Suggestions will be given on how to improve the Chinglish sentences in your articles. All interesting stories are welcomed. Please be sure the article is written in English, around 500 words in total. Please do not forget to include your name and address.

Are university students sheep?

By Li Jie

As we know, some people in the society sometimes have prejudice on the university students. Such things happen in many aspects of our life. When the graduates come into the job-hunting, the first thing they must persuade the interviewer to believe in is that they really have enough abilities to do the job rather than show their certificates. More and more graduates complain that their time is less worthy in the university. Does the so-called fact exist? The answer should be "no".

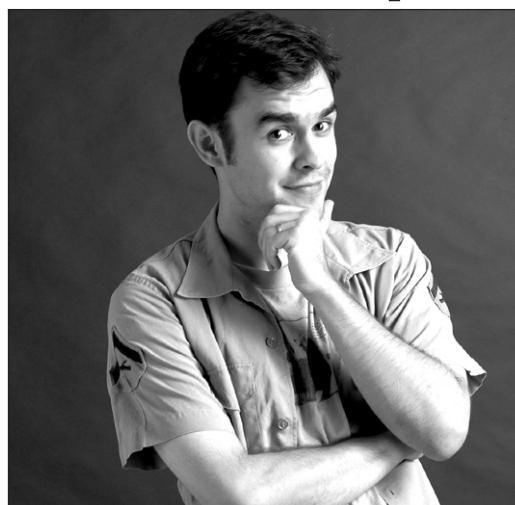
From the traditional education system, we can see a lot of reasons why the students become more and more dependent. What do sheep refer to? People who have no their own thoughts, only following the tendency, are given such titles. More and more high students pass the college entry exam to come into the university campus. Some voice comes out that the style of the education in china has some problem with teaching students to have the right way of thinking. Therefore, as the high students' entry to the college, they are more likely to become sheep.

In some degree, we can tell the truth that the university students have their own weaknesses. They prefer receiving to paying. Take looking for girl friends for an example. This thing is supposed to be private. But as the both sides of the love taste sweet, a lot of students around will resist the temptation. From this point, we can know the inside of some students need fulfilling.

But should we come to the conclusion that the university students are sheep? The mentality of following the tendency, as it were, is one of the characteristics personalizing the university students. No one can condemn the features of one century. Maybe this is just because this group of students given by too many personalities at such time has more to show off, as in the case of the people who are put onto much pressure.

We must also recognize that they have right to pursue their favorites although these things seem to have belonged to others. Before the university students enter the society, they act mostly like adolescences uninfluenced by the bad habits. After all following the tendency is the human nature. Should we call them the sheep that mean they have no abilities to protect themselves? In addition, the most of university students are not suppose to be not creative. They are making progress in the processing of education.

So I can predict the hypothesis will disappear when people see the future of the time is connected with the success of the university students.



John Gordon, from the United States, is Vice President of Beijing New Channel School

John Gordon's reply

Dear Li Jie,

Thanks so much for sharing your article. You write about an interesting topic, and I can tell that you have some interesting ideas about the subject, but I must admit that I have some trouble understanding some of your points. In my response to your article I will point out both some language mistakes and some areas where I think you could express yourself more clearly.

One mistake you make repeatedly is overusing the definite article 'the'. In your first paragraph you talk about 'the society', 'the university students', 'the graduates', and 'the job hunting', none of which need to be preceded by 'the'. You make similar mistakes in subsequent paragraphs. In all of these cases you are talking about something general, like 'job hunting', and not something specific, like 'the job hunt'. When we talk about something in general in English, we rarely add a 'the'. In the first sentence of your second-to-last paragraph, however, you state that students 'have right to pursue' something. In this case you are referring to a specific 'right', so you should use 'the right'.

In your first sentence you write that society 'have prejudice on the university students'. Society is singular, though, so you should write that society 'has some prejudices against university students'. A more common way of expressing the same idea would be to say that society 'is prejudiced against university students'. In your next paragraph you refer to 'people who have no their own thoughts', which is grammatically incorrect. You should instead write about 'people who do not have their own thoughts'. You also repeatedly refer to 'high students', when we would usually say 'high school students'.

In your third paragraph you say that students 'prefer receiving to paying'. While your sentence is grammatically correct, its meaning might not be immediately clear to a native-speaking reader. We would be more likely to say 'prefer receiving to giving' or, more explicitly, 'prefer getting things for free rather than working hard for them'.

Later on in your essay you write that 'following the tendency is the human nature'. This sentence would also seem awkward to a native speaker, who would be more likely to state that 'following one's instincts is human nature', or that 'following natural tendencies is human nature'.

There are a couple of sentences in your essay that I simply cannot understand. For instance, I don't know what you mean when you write 'students given by too many personalities at such time has more to show off', and I'm not sure what your final sentence means or how it is related to your essay. I would strongly recommend simplifying your language to ensure that your readers can clearly understand your meaning.

That said, I admire you for tackling a difficult issue, and encourage you to continue to develop your potential as a writer!

Best,

John

► Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify chinglish in public areas. If you see a chinglish sign, please take a picture and send it to Shirley_chen@ynet.com with your name and address.

Take note!



Photo provided by Beijing Youth Daily

By Philip Space

To take notice of safe

The slippery are very crafty

This is one of those signs that is littered with such classic Chinglish that native English readers find it hard not to laugh out loud. "To take notice of safe" could simply be changed to "Take care". In the second line, the authors of the sign write "The slippery are very crafty". Presumably the writer means "The path is slippery". The adjective "crafty" should not be used in this context. You can say a person is crafty but you cannot say an object is crafty. So the second line should be changed to "The path is slippery and is very dangerous".

Not the greatest description of a gate



Photo by Chen Shasha

By Philip Space

Manzi Gate

The Manzi Gate is at a lower grade than the Guangliang Gate. It is a house-like gate to the houses of businessmen and rich households.

This sign was spotted inside a popular tourist sight in Beijing, the Capital Museum. It is not written so badly that the meaning is lost but it could certainly be improved. The first line, "The Manzi Gate is at a lower grade than the Guangliang Gate", would probably be better written, "The Manzi Gate is not as spectacular as the Guangliang Gate." There is unnecessary repetition of the word "house" in the last line. A native-English speaker would write something more like "It is an arched gate leading to the houses of businessmen and wealthy families."



Li Jie is a student of Beijing Forestry University.

Friday, August 4

Exhibition

Naughtiness – An exhibition by a young group of artists



The seven artists are Fan Anxiang, Li Bo, Lian Xueming, Liu Chuan, Peng Bo, Wang

Xiaolu, Yu Bo.

Where: Beijing Art Now gallery, Beijing Workers' Stadium, opposite Gate 12, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6551 1632

Oil Painting Exhibition featuring Chen Xiaoxiong and Luan Xiaojie

Where: Qin Gallery, 1-1E Enjoy Paradise, Hua Wei Li, Chaoyang

When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 8779 0461

Movie

Bernie

A dark comedy about a young orphan named Bernie who decides to leave his orphanage and find his parents.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 8pm, until August 5

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627

Jaywalking

Tells the stories of a group of

contemporary visual artists.

Where: Cherry Lane Movies, Inside Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang

When: 8pm, until August 5

Admission: 30-50 yuan

Tel: 13901134745

Music

The Verse Rocks

A band known for their lingering, charming songs

Where: Lucky Bar, A1 Xingba Lu, Nuren Jie, Chaoyang

When: 10pm

Admission: 20-30 yuan

Tel: 8448 3335



Saturday, August 5

Exhibition

Liu Qiang Solo Oil Painting Exhibition



Where: Melodic Gallery, 14 Jianguomenwai Street, opposite the Friendship Store, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-4:30pm, until August 25

Admission: Free

Tel: 6515 8123

Group Exhibition of Chinese Painting

Where: New Art Center, 136 Nanchizi Street, Dongcheng

When: Daily 9:30am-6pm, until August 30



Admission: Free

Tel: 6528 9103

New-three painters Exhibition of Sichuan Fine Arts Institute

Where: New Millennium Gallery, 3818 Warehouse, 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Daily 10am-6:30pm, until August 31

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 4122

Movie

Le Père Noël est une ordure (Father Christmas is a Shit)

Félix, disguised as Father Christmas, hands out leaflets advertising a sexy Christmas party. His place is taken by

an African Santa Claus and he returns to his caravan only to find his girlfriend Josette about to leave him. When he comes after her, she takes refuge at 'SOS Distress', run by two neurotics, Thérèse and Pierre.

Where: French Culture Center, 18 Guangcai International Apartments, West Road of Workers' Stadium, Chaoyang.

When: 6pm, until August 9

Admission: 10-20 yuan

Tel: 6553 2627



Sunday, August 6

Exhibition

Hung Donglu Solo Exhibition



Where: Beijing Arty Season, 2 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until September 4

Admission: Free

Tel: 6431 1900

Unmask 2002-2006

Where: Dimensions Art Center, 4 Jiuxianqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: Tue-Sun 11am-7pm, until September 3

Admission: Free

Tel: 6435 9665

Outdoor

The Rolling Stones

Where: This hike starts from a park located northwest of the Ming tombs. Walk up a valley

with rocky cliffs on either side, alongside a clear stream. Eventually people come to a shepherd's hut on top of the valley. Then head up to a windy ridge and walk down to a small village where those people who

want to take it easy can get picked up by the bus.

When: Leave from Starbucks, Lido at 8am and return at about 4:30pm

Cost: 150-200 yuan

Tel: 13911025516



Stage in August

Concert

Violin Concert

Who: Vladimir Spivakov and Moscow Virtuosi

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 4

Admission: 80-580 yuan

The Fifth Beijing International Chopin Piano Competition

Who: Young pianists

Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Beixinhua Jie, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 9-17

Admission: 50-900 yuan

Symphony Concert

Who: German Dortmund Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 29

Admission: 100-800 yuan

Dance

Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty, Nutcracker

Who: St. Petersburg State Ice Ballet

Where: Beijing Exhibition Theater, 135 Xizhimen Wai Street, Xicheng

When: 7:30pm, September 22-24

Admission: 120-680 yuan

Tap Dance

Who: Ireland's Spirit of the Dance

Where: Century Theater, 40 Liangmaqiao Road, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 23-29

Admission: 180-1080 yuan

Spartak

Who: Russia Moscow Classical Model Ballet Troupe

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 27-28

Admission: 120-880 yuan

The New Swan Lake

Who: American Carolina Ballet

Where: Poly Theater, 14 Dongzhimen South Street, Chaoyang

When: 7:30pm, September 30

Admission: 100-800 yuan

(By Qiu Jiaoning)